

Insider's Guide to All-Inclusives

THE BEST DEALS, MEALS, VENUES IN THE CARIBBEAN & BEYOND P.51

Bargain
COWNS
Under \$1K!
P.34

DESTINATION WEDDINGS & HONEYMOONS



**ROAD TRIP
ROMANCE**
*4 TOP
ROUTES*

*Unique
Registries,
Reception
Ideas &
Beach
Beauty Tips*

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POOLS**
*RIGHT
IN YOUR
ROOM!*

Plan your
***Fantasy
Wedding!***

TRASH THE DRESS IN FIJI P.82

TRADE LEIS IN HAWAII P.48

FIESTA IN MEXICO P.19

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PERFECT ONE
FOR OUR HONEYMOON



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DESTINATION WEDDINGS & HONEYMOONS

May/June 2015

NOW ARRIVING

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editor's letter

Trash to Treasure

The trash-the-dress trend has been around for a while — we first wrote about it in our 2008 World-wide Guide issue! But it's a phenomenon we never tire of. It's fun, it's adventurous, and people can't help but be fascinated by the awesome photos that result.

In this issue, we mention several prime places to try the trend, from a waterfall on Saint Lucia to a freshwater *cenote* (sinkhole) in Mexico. Of course, our favorite trash-the-dress moments come from a shoot in Fiji featured on our cover and back page. "It's all about taking advantage of the opportunity," says Malia Johnson, the photog behind the fantasy. "You're young and in love, traveling together to the world's most beautiful places, and coming home with professional imagery." See the full story on p. 82.

Of course, you don't have to literally jump into the water to take the plunge in paradise. This issue is packed with suggestions for where to wed, including our favorite all-inclusives (p. 51), private villas (p. 22 — they're not just for trust-fund babies anymore!) and four domestic spots that feel worlds away (Real Weddings, p. 42).

We know you've got your hands full wedding planning; that's why we've simplified the honeymoon for you, whether your dream is an African safari (p. 78), a private plunge pool (p. 80) or even a road trip across America (p. 58).

So take a breath and dive in — we hope you feel as inspired and empowered reading this issue as we did creating it!



Erika

ERIKA HUENEKE
Editor-in-Chief



ON OUR COVER

Mike and Leila celebrated their engagement at Tavarua Island Resort in Fiji with an underwater photo session. For more on their story, see p. 82.

PHOTOGRAPHY STUANDMALIA.COM
GOWN EBAY



NEW ONLINE — RESORTS UNDER \$200

Dreaming of a romantic getaway but don't want to spend a ton of money? A hotel doesn't have to be expensive to be extraordinary. We've rounded up the 25 best honeymoon resorts where you can bed down and snuggle up for less than \$200 per night, from The Hotel Zamora in Florida (left) to Jake's in Jamaica. Visit destinationweddingmag.com/under200.

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DESTINATION WEDDINGS & HONEYMOONS

Q: What's your dream road trip?

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EDITORIAL

THERE'S SO MUCH TO SEE IN THE **PACIFIC NORTHWEST**, FROM MIGRATING ORCA WHALES TO CRAFT BREWERIES GALORE.

THE **PARIS TO MARSEILLE** ROAD TRIP ON ROUTE 7 HAS MY NAME ALL OVER IT; IT'S FULL OF TOP-NOTCH FOOD, HISTORY AND CULTURE.

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DRIVING THROUGH THE TETONS, **YELLOWSTONE** AND UP INTO GLACIER NATIONAL PARK.

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THE **LAS VEGAS TO COLORADO** ROAD TRIP IN THE FEATURE ON P. 58, TO GET AN EYEFUL OF THE JAW-DROPPING LANDSCAPES.

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WHAT'S NEW AND NEXT IN THE WORLD OF WEDDINGS AWAY

pick the date

WEATHER ❧ VALUE ❧ EVENTS



RIVIERA MAYA ➔ \$8,510

FLOWERS \$480 PHOTOGRAPHY \$1,750
FOOD* \$2,200 DJ \$1,500
CEREMONY** \$1,200 OTHER*** \$1,380

HOW TO SAVE "Be flexible on the day of the week and season in which you get married. Avoid holidays and popular months like May, June and October." — Carl Howard of Expert Honeymoons

ST. THOMAS ➔ \$11,710

FLOWERS \$1,050 PHOTOGRAPHY \$2,400
FOOD* \$6,260 DJ \$1,500
CEREMONY** \$300 OTHER*** \$200

HOW TO SAVE "Opt for rental cars. A week rental is much less expensive than taxi transportation, and because the island is small, it rarely takes more than 20 minutes to get anywhere." — Amber Ambrose of Blue Sky Ceremony

THE KEYS, FL ➔ \$27,600

FLOWERS \$2,000 PHOTOGRAPHY \$4,000
FOOD* \$7,500 DJ/BAND \$6,500
CEREMONY** \$2,000 OTHER*** \$5,600

HOW TO SAVE "Serve beer and wine vs. a full bar. Buffets are usually cheaper than plated dinners. Catered affairs under a tent are much more expensive than at a 'brick-and-mortar' venue." — Lynn D'Ascanio of D'Asigner Events

NAPA, CA ➔ \$27,034

FLOWERS \$2,000 PHOTOGRAPHY \$3,400
FOOD* \$5,550 DJ \$1,800
CEREMONY** \$7,584 OTHER*** \$6,700

HOW TO SAVE "Two items that always take up a considerable amount are site and food, but from there, pick and choose where you want to splurge and where you want to save." — Heather Holliday of Holliday Weddings



May and June are the most popular (read: priciest) marrying months. If you're getting hitched in the high season, here's what you'll spend in eight top destinations.

LAS VEGAS ➔ \$13,885

FLOWERS \$700 PHOTOGRAPHY \$2,000
FOOD* \$3,875 DJ \$750
CEREMONY** \$2,560 OTHER*** \$4,000

HOW TO SAVE "Stick with your wedding venue's standard linens, chairs, tables and place settings. The moment you upgrade is the moment your costs increase." — Christy Paciolla, sales manager of The Venue Las Vegas

TUSCANY ➔ \$15,924

FLOWERS \$450 PHOTOGRAPHY \$1,974
FOOD* \$5,626 DJ \$450
CEREMONY** \$5,924 OTHER*** \$1,500

HOW TO SAVE "If you have the ceremony in a church, don't waste money decorating it with flowers. Italian churches and chapels are usually centuries old and beautiful as they are." — Laura Villarosa of Italian Special Occasions

MAUI ➔ \$23,525

FLOWERS \$1,930 PHOTOGRAPHY \$5,530
FOOD* \$6,500 DJ \$1,740
CEREMONY** \$4,447 OTHER*** \$3,378

HOW TO SAVE "Since Maui weddings tend to be informal, many couples forgo a traditional rehearsal dinner at a restaurant and opt for a catered welcome party." — Christian Jorgensen of CJs Deli & Diner and Events & Catering

BERMUDA ➔ \$24,170

FLOWERS \$5,000 PHOTOGRAPHY \$1,950
FOOD* \$9,000 DJ \$1,170
CEREMONY** \$5,550 OTHER*** \$1,500

HOW TO SAVE "Rates for hotels and flights in Bermuda drop considerably after Labor Day, right through the end of March." — Katie Trimmingham, director of weddings and events for Destination Wedding Bermuda



Find Your Place in the Sun

TIME YOUR WEDDING JUST RIGHT FOR A BREATHTAKING SUNSET BACKDROP.



MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA ➔ 5:10 p.m. BORA BORA, ISLANDS OF TAHITI ➔ 5:41 p.m. SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO ➔ 6:57 p.m.
LOS CABOS, MEXICO ➔ 8:01 p.m. LAS VEGAS ➔ 7:52 p.m. TURKS AND CAICOS ➔ 7:23 p.m. BIG ISLAND, HI ➔ 6:59 p.m.
KEY WEST ➔ 8:12 p.m. BAR HARBOR, ME ➔ 8:16 p.m. SAVANNAH, GA ➔ 8:26 p.m. NAPA, CA ➔ 8:27 p.m.***

by CHARYN PFEUFFER

now
arriving

HAPPENINGS

GROUNDBREAKING

THESE NEW AND UPDATED RESORTS GUARANTEE A STUNNING SETTING FOR YOUR BIG DAY.

After a three-year closure and a revamp, **Malliouhana, an Auberge Resort** (below) reopened November

2014 as one of the poshest spots on Anguilla's

famed Meads Bay. Host sunset vows before 40 guests.

... San Juan, Puerto Rico's historic **Condado Vanderbilt Hotel**, a

member of Preferred Hotel Group, reopened December 2014 after a complete reno that unveiled four ballrooms and salons, plus 5,000 square feet of outdoor event spaces facing the Atlantic. Commence your fiesta with terrace cocktails; end with an after-party at the hotel's

Marabar Martini Bar & Lounge.

... In October

2014, **The Sea Pines Resort**

(left), on Hilton Head Island, South

Carolina, re-

vealed its new

wedding venue:

the **Atlantic Room** at

the **Sea Pines Beach Club**. Holding up to 120 guests, the site offers panoramas of the ocean and Tybee Island from its 40-foot floor-to-ceiling windows. ... **Grand Isle Resort & Spa**

(below), a member of Preferred Hotel Group, debuted December 2014 with 78 villas facing Exuma,

Bahamas' **Emerald Bay**. Wed on the

powder sand,

then cele-

brate under the thatch

pavilion of

the pool

patio. — *Ivette*

Manners



The Next Hawaii

SAINT LUCIA

THIS JUNGLE-CLOAKED, VOLCANIC ISLE FEELS EVERY BIT AS EXOTIC AS THE ALOHA STATE.

The vibe ➔ The best of the Hawaiian Islands merges on the singular destination of Saint Lucia, 3.5 hours by plane from Miami. Expect sheer, rainforested cliffs (a la Kauai), a still-smoking caldera (like the Big Island) and an adrenaline-pumping kitesurfing scene (rivaling Oahu's North Shore). Where they diverge: Largely undeveloped and lacking chain hotels, Saint Lucia is so little-known that most Americans couldn't pinpoint it on a map.



Where to wed ➔ Just 10 minutes from the main airport on the island's southern coast, the 250-room **Coconut Bay Beach Resort & Spa** makes it easy to marry on golden sand with green peaks as backdrop. Post-ceremony, adjourn to the onsite oceanfront gazebo to feast on pumpkin bisque, lobster Newburg and coconut cheesecake. The resort is divided into two wings: The kid-friendly side (perfect for bringing along the flower girl and ring bearer) has a water park with slides



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: PARADISUS PALMA REAL; GEEJAM HOTEL; SONESTA MAHO BEACH RESORT; SILVERLIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY, TORONTO; COURTESY COCONUT BAY BEACH RESORT & SPA, SAINT LUCIA; SAINT LUCIA TOURIST BOARD; GRAND ISLE RESORT AND SPA; LANDON JACOB PHOTOGRAPHY; COURTESY MALLIOUHANA, AN AUBERGE RESORT; GIDEONPHOTO.COM

Flight Tracker

SIMPLIFY GUEST TRAVEL BY CHOOSING ONE OF THESE NEW DIRECT ROUTES.

1 NYC (JFK) ➔ CURACAO (CUR)

JetBlue (4 hours, 45 minutes)

Curacao was recently named the No. 2 most-romantic Caribbean island in USA TODAY's 10Best Readers' Choice contest.

2 LOS ANGELES (LAX) ➔

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA (MEL)

United (15 hours, 50 minutes)

Expect slicker, safer service now that flight attendants are equipped with the new iPhone 6 Plus.



and a lazy river. The other half is — you guessed it — adults-only. *Rooms from \$173 per person, all-inclusive; weddings from \$799.*

Local touch ➤

Trash the dress under the 56-foot spray of Diamond Waterfall, just outside the main town of Soufriere.

— Brooke Morton

Above: The island's twin Pitons steal the spotlight. Below, from left: Adventurers flock to Saint Lucia. Succulent shrimp and breezy beach vows at Coconut Bay Beach Resort.



Fringe Benefits

These hotels take private privileges to the next level with their resort-within-a-resort concept.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

THE RESERVE AT PARADISUS PALMA REAL, PUNTA CANA

This luxury family-friendly hotel within Paradisus Palma Real resort offers 190 terraced suites, plus private facilities like a personal check-in area, Gabi Club restaurant and a beach with concierge service. A toes-in-the-sand ceremony here is a must. Follow with a reception on the Olympus or Beach terrace. *Rooms from \$540 per person, all-inclusive; Wish wedding free with a seven-night stay.*



JAMAICA

GEEJAM VILLA COLLECTION

The Geejam Collection of three boutique hotels has unveiled two period villas. The three-bedroom Sanwood is set on the grounds of Geejam Hotel, while the six-bedroom Cocosan boasts a secluded hillside perch. Besides having access to the amenities at each hotel, villa guests also enjoy a full staff and a private pool. Swap vows on the lawn of Trident Castle, or on Trident Hotel's beach, while the staff readies your villa for the big bash. *Villas from \$1,295 per night; weddings from \$1,599.*

ST. MAARTEN

SONESTA OCEAN POINT RESORT

An overhaul of one of Sonesta Maho Beach Resort's buildings resulted in the creation of the 129-suite, adults-only Sonesta Ocean Point, opened December 2014. It's the only hotel on the island to feature swim-out suites, and guests get exclusive entree to three pools, three bars and a Mediterranean restaurant. Wed cliff-side in the garden, then move to a private rooftop. *Rooms from \$210 per person, all-inclusive; weddings from \$75 per person.* — Maya Vandenberg



3 ORLANDO (MCO) ➤ LONDON GATWICK (LGW) *Norwegian (8 hours, 15 minutes)* The U.K. celebrates the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta in 2015; see an original in Lincoln or Salisbury.

4 MIAMI (MIA) ➤ FRANKFURT, GERMANY (FRA) *American (9 hours, 30 minutes)* In 2015, the airline is investing \$2 billion into in-flight improvements like Wi-Fi, food and entertainment.

5 SAN FRANCISCO (SFO) ➤ LAS VEGAS (LAS) *JetBlue (1 hour, 30 minutes)* Feeling generous? Donate your loyalty points to charity through the airline's new Points Donation program.

6 NYC (JFK) ➤ GRENADA (GND) *JetBlue (5 hours)* The Caribbean's "Spice Isle" is a rising star thanks to this new flight — and a five-star Sandals resort that just opened April 2014.

now
arriving

**IT'S ALWAYS
PARTY TIME >>**

Welcome guests in kitschy style at the legendary **Charlie's Bar** in San Nicolas, where 74 years' worth of memorabilia covers the walls. Make the 30-minute ride more fun by renting the **Kukoo Kunuku** party bus (below), complete with music and refreshments.

1



5 THINGS WE love



2

31 FLAVORS AND THEN SOME

>> For a rehearsal dinner of award-winning seafood with your toes in the sand, head to **The Flying Fish Bone** in the historic town of Savaneta. The morning after the big day, invite the gang to roll out of bed for Sunday brunch at the Hyatt's **Ruinas del Mar**, featuring burrito-size omelets, sushi, caviar, oysters, cakes and tarts.

ARUBA

The sunniest Caribbean isle (according to science) is a home run for I do's.



4

GET A PIECE OF THE ACTION >> Take your guests on a jeep ride with **De Palm Tours** through the lunar-like terrain of **Arikok National Park**. Then climb down to take a dip in the **Conchi** natural pool (above), a calm black-rock cove tucked away on the wild north-eastern shore. Or snorkel over *Antilla*, a 400-foot sunken German freighter, with **Red Sail Sports**.



3

LIFE — AND YOUR WEDDING — IS A BEACH >>

Exchange sunset vows under a canopy draped in organza and seashell chimes at **Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort Spa & Casino** on Palm Beach. Then walk a few steps along the white sand to the Beach Deck (above) with a dance floor, a lit-up bar and tables set for a five-course dinner. Add local touches like a steel drummer and a calypso dance troupe.

PLENTY OF PLACES TO SAY CHEESE >> For a photo op with sweeping ocean views, centuries-old **Alto Vista Chapel** (right) sits high above the desert coast among towering cacti and horizontal divi-divi trees. Other stops: the **California Lighthouse**, overlooking the northern tip of the island, and **City Hall**, with its charming green facade (all legal unions must take place here). — *Vicky Hodges*



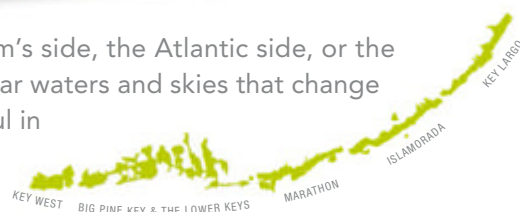
5

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A perfect view from both sides of the isle.



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Trend Alert!

Pop-Up Weddings

If you're marrying away for the ease of planning and intimate vibe, you might take it one step further and consider a "pop-up wedding."

WHAT ➤ "A pop-up wedding is an alternative to a traditional elopement that allows couples to show their personality and style while getting all the benefits of a large wedding," says Nichole Young of Young Love Events, which specializes in pop-up weddings in Orlando, Florida. Remember that scene in *The Vow*, where Channing Tatum and Rachel McAdams' characters wed with just a few friends in a gallery at the Art Institute of Chicago before the guards catch them? Bingo.

WHY ➤ Two words: "Spontaneity and excitement," according to planner Cayleigh Hopkins of Hand Made Events in San Francisco. "Fewer contrary opinions and less confusion mean a

stress-free day that everyone can enjoy."

WHO ➤ Your honey, an officiant and a few friends and family — that's all you need.

HOW ➤ Hand Made Events plans a cocktail, engagement or birthday party, and couples surprise their guests by getting married right there (à la *Parks and Rec*). Or head to your favorite landmark and say your I do's on the spot.

WHERE ➤ Hopkins dreams of "the middle of Grand Central Station in New York City (above) or in front of the Sydney Opera House in Australia." Or, says Young, "there's always a crowd at the Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro, which would make for amazing photos and applause!" — *Holly V. Kapherr*

DISPATCH

LOSE, HONOR, CHERISH

GIVE NEW MEANING TO "BAJA FRESH" AT THIS MEXICO HEALTH HIDEAWAY.

Spa and fitness vacations are now a \$494 billion industry, according to a 2013 Global Wellness Institute report. Whether you want to shed those last few pounds before the big day or get a head start on your "in health" vow, make a run for

Rancho La Puerta in the

border town of Tecate, Mexico, just an hour's drive from San Diego. At this pastoral property, which has specialized in wellness get-

aways for 75 years, fill days with hikes, exercise classes, crafts, cooking lessons, massages or sunrise yoga. New event spaces, holding 25 to 120, and packages were unveiled last summer. La Cocina Que Canta hacienda — with its lush patios, friendly kittens, gurgling fountains and views of sacred Mount Kuchumaa — offers a scenic ceremony backdrop; dine in the surrounding six-acre farm that provides most of the ingredients for your field-to-fork

feast. **One-week packages from \$3,250 per person; venue rentals from \$7,000.**

— *Carrie Bell*



ROCKIN' RECEPTIONS

Adam Levine enlisted bandmate James Valentine to perform during his 2014 Cabo wedding, but celebs aren't the only ones looking for an amped-up event. "Couples are straying from tradition and seeking something modern," says Melissa Shanklin, special-events manager of **Andaz West Hollywood**. Once a favorite haunt of bands like Led Zeppelin, today the hotel flaunts rock photos and urban-chic wedding spaces, including the highest rooftop pool deck in LA. — *Marla Cimini*

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: COURTESY RANCHO LA PUERTA (2); MATT MILLER/DIAMOND EYES (WEAREDIAMONDEYES.COM); SALWA PHOTOGRAPHY

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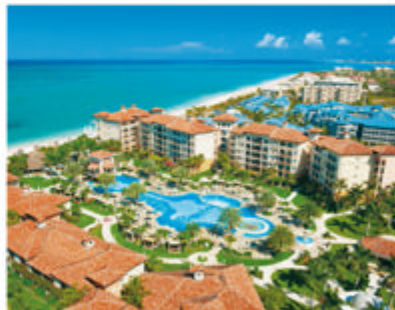


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inside

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GIFTS FOR
YOUR GUYS P26

the *plan*



OUR GUIDE TO FIESTAS IN THE
MEXICAN CARIBBEAN

how to marry in RIVIERA MAYA



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: CHRISTIAN GARCIA DESTINATION WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHER (CHRISTIANGARCIA.COM.MX);
BRANDON KIDD PHOTOGRAPHY; MAHEKA BEACH RESORT; ARIEL RENAE (ARIELRENAEPHOTO.COM); CHRISTIAN GARCIA DESTINATION
WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHER (CHRISTIANGARCIA.COM.MX); MAHEKA BEACH RESORT (2); ARIEL RENAE (ARIELRENAEPHOTO.COM)

by CARRIE BELL



Tulum

This former hippie hideout shuns PDC's high-rises and disco din in favor of chill cabanas, boutique eco-resorts and organic foodie finds.

➡ **STAY** Getting hitched at adults-only **The Beach** resort requires a buyout of all 20 minimalist-modern rooms, but that means couples and their clans can privately enjoy the yoga palapa, catch of the day from Ziggy's *fogata* (fire pit), tequila sunrises from one of two pools and, come winter 2015, a full spa. *Rooms from \$287; weddings from \$3,000.*

Unplug in one of just 18 colorful rooms or casitas at **ZAMAS**, and celebrate with a beach ceremony and palapa reception. Also on the itinerary: kitesurfing, bird-watching, sunset cove swims and picnics à deux with house-made salsas and oat breads. *Rooms from \$125; weddings from \$2,000.*

➡ **PLAY** Discover more about the Maya than their calendar (which famously predicted the end of the world in 2012) at the ancient pyramids in **Tulum** and **Coba**. Kayak through **Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve's** wildlife-inhabited historic channels. Find inner peace, smoother skin and epic

photo ops with **Mayan Clay Spa's** Maya clay group body session for you and your 'maids.

➡ **FIESTA** **Maia Ka'ab**, a private event venue dropped into the jungle coast in June 2014, stages weddings on wooden decks floating over tranquil lagoons. Planners praise catering by open-air **El Tabano** restaurant; receptions benefit from inventive dishes like tamales in carrot cream.



quick hits

LANGUAGE ➡ Spanish **AVG. TEMP** ➡ 80° F year-round **FLOWER** ➡ dahlia **CURRENCY** ➡ \$14.99MXN = \$1USD **BEST WEDDING MONTHS** ➡ Jan. – June **QUIRKY MARRIAGE REQ** ➡ blood tests

➡ IT'S EASY TO SING THE PRAISES OF MEXICO'S CARIBBEAN COAST — AN 81-MILE STRETCH OF SUGAR SAND, DENSE JUNGLE, WATERY CAVERNS, DIVERSE HOTELS, SACRED MAYA SITES AND TACO TUESDAY EVERY DAY OF THE WEEK. AND, THANKS TO A VAST ARRAY OF VENUES AND VENDORS, YUCA-CAN EASILY PULL OFF YOUR PARTY.

The Details LOCAL COLOR

SET A MAYA MOOD AT YOUR EVENT.

WELCOME BAGS

Buy local to avoid customs issues and shipping fees, says Tracy French of The French Connection Events. "Pick up colorful woven market bags — they are relatively inexpensive, are typical of the destination and double as beach bags. Hit shops on Fifth Avenue in Playa for sunscreen, tequila, maracas and Mexican candy."



TRASH THE DRESS

Freshwater cenotes are the area's most popular spot for day-after shoots. Vincent Van den Berg of Pixan Photography advises allotting four hours in the morning when the light is best. How to prepare? Practice swimming underwater with your eyes open. To avoid "blowfish" face, "Before diving in, take a deep breath, filling your lungs — not your cheeks — and gently exhale while you swim."

TRADITIONS

Most resorts offer Maya ceremonies that incorporate a shaman, incense, wind instruments, conch calls and flowers. At the reception, try *la vibora de la mar* (the snake of the sea). "The couple is lifted up on chairs, and guests grab hands and run under them, playfully trying to knock them down," explains Alex Nevsky of Audio Cancun.



Playa del Carmen

Less than 45 minutes from the bustling Cancun airport, PDC is a fast-growing seaside town filled with clubs, cantinas and coastal R & R.

STAY Break in the beds, beach and ballroom at **Hyatt Playa del Carmen**, opening June 2015. The 314-key midcentury-meets-Maya property is steps from both Mamitas Beach and downtown nightlife. The architecture draws inspiration from the regional geography, especially in the spa, built to resemble a local *cenote* (natural underground reservoir). *Rooms from \$185; weddings from \$3,300.*

When a resort hires big names like Todd Fiscus and Hilda Espino to oversee its redesign, you know it's primed for weddings. At **Mahekal Beach Resort**, meandering paths lead to 122 thatch-roof bungalows. Other enticements: a seaside Jacuzzi, two restaurants, three bars, ping-pong, billiards and, of course, a sandy shore where you can exchange vows. *Rooms from \$205; weddings from \$2,300.*

Adults-only **Viceroy Riviera Maya** offers six spots to say I do, including the beach, a garden and an alfresco oceanfront bar and grill. Or, if your jungle love cannot be tamed, opt for

the rainforest palapa. Turn-down here is a cut above: A soap concierge delivers and slices off organic bath bars in the scent of your choosing. *Rooms from \$315 (seasonal special); weddings from \$199 per person.*

A 20-minute drive from the city is **Mayakoba**, comprising a golf course, 500 species of flora and fauna (from orchids to ocelots), and mangrove-lined natural canals that connect three high-end hotels (our pick: Mexi-Asian **Banyan Tree**, which offers pool villas with private terraces). In spring 2015, Mayakoba unveiled **El Pueblito**, evoking a colonial town plaza of boutiques, eateries, a bandstand and a white wedding chapel. *Banyan Tree rooms from \$549; weddings from \$325 per person.*

PLAY The Snorkel Shop offers reef and river tours, while **Scuba Playa** organizes all-day dives to Playa's reefs and along Cozumel's famed walls. Take your ensuing appetite out for gourmet Maya munchies like fajitas in sour orange sauce



at Yaxché. **Playa Del Carmen Connect** plans custom final flings, whether your vision is a bachelor bar crawl, a women-only wine tasting or a co-ed Coco Bongo dance-off.

FIESTA For a unique union, gather guests at **Xcaret**, a 200-acre eco theme park whose event spaces range from a neoclassical Catholic chapel (with its altar in a sinkhole!) to legit archaeological sites and natural rock pools. Or turn up the heat at **Kool Beach Club** with luminarias and DJ-spun beats.

Hidden Gem Akumal

This sleepy ex-coconut plantation is a rising star thanks to its flourishing coral reefs and calm waters, which present both scrumptious seafood (try Cueva del Pescador restaurant) and opportunities to swim with sea turtles during the April-to-October nesting season. New lodgings are under construction, so rent a lavish hacienda like Villa Valhalla or Bellamar for festivities all under one roof. Another option: Speed 10 minutes north to Hotel Esencia; once a private retreat for an Italian duchess, the 29-room resort now hosts weddings on secluded Xpu-Ha Beach and glowing reception dinners by the pool.

EATS

Serve *cochinita pibil* (pork in Maya sauce) and *micheladas* ("beertails" concocted with lime juice, peppers and spices). Van den Berg has seen many couples feed each other churros instead of cake lately (try a churro cart). Tamarind-flavored drinks and food are also local faves.



ENTERTAINMENT

Hire mariachis for the recession! and to escort guests to cocktail hour, recommends Leanne Marie of LM Weddings. French says she often books Gipsy Kings-esque Yahal Kab band for receptions. Alex Nevsky has mixmasters DJ Rockdrigo and DJ Kaos on speed dial. Fire dancers and Yucatan guitar trios are also popular.

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE TOP: A ceremony setup at Mahekal. A celebratory bonfire at Maia Ka'ab. ¡Salud! Mini tequilas. Posing in Tulum. PREVIOUS PAGE: Only Mexico perfectly blends merry mariachis, barefoot bliss, tropical palapas, strawberry margaritas, tequila toasts, beach threads, plunge pools and zesty ceviche.



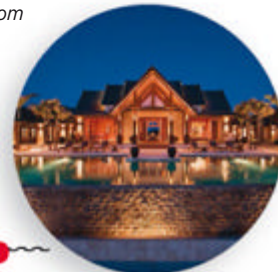
Villa Virtues

SURPRISE! PRIVATE VILLAS CAN BE COST COMPETITIVE FOR WEDDINGS. MANAGERS OF TOP PROPERTIES NOTE THE PERKS.

Intimacy ➔ A villa wedding gives couples a more intimate feel, fewer rules, more control and more personalized service, says Barbara Broutin, wedding planner for Villa Manzu in Costa Rica. “A resort is a great option, but often the couple gets lost in the shuffle.” **VILLA** A 30,000-square-foot estate perched on the edge of Peninsula Papagayo, **Villa Manzu** (left, 2) comes with 180-degree views of the water as a backdrop. **DETAILS** Sleeps 22; wedding capacity of 45. From \$16,500/night, three-night minimum.

Quality Time ➔ Nearly every wedding couple at Ani Villas in Anguilla turns their event into a weeklong affair. “They’ll use our bespoke luxury experience as a chance to go on boat trips, snorkel, enjoy beach barbecues and even learn to kitesurf,” says general manager Felix Pina. **VILLA** You have the run of not one but two cliff-side estates when you host your big day at **Ani Villas** (below), voted best Caribbean villa last year by *Condé Nast Johansens*. **DETAILS** Sleeps 24; wedding capacity of 100. From \$8,500/night, three-night minimum.

Privacy ➔ “Weddings at private villas allow couples to enjoy the day surrounded by only their closest family and friends and natural beauty,” says Gigi Salisbury, co-owner of Nandana Villa on Grand Bahama Island. **VILLA** Crafted with Asian architecture, **Nandana** (below) means *paradise* in Sanskrit. This complex of five suites and a luxury safari tent redefines seclusion. **DETAILS** Sleeps 12; wedding capacity of 125. From \$9,000/night, three-night minimum. — Dena Roché



WEDDING THREE WAYS St. Croix

The Virgin Islands’ untouched natural beauty that captivated Columbus in 1493 is front and center on St. Croix, where verdant mountains meet cerulean seas. — Holly V. Kapherr



UNDER \$10K

TAMARIND REEF RESORT, SPA & MARINA

At this pastel-painted enclave, each of the 40 rooms faces the calm Caribbean. Another plus: Snorkel charters to Buck Island National Monument (a USVI must) can pick up your party right at the resort’s dock. Basic wedding packages include an officiant for the beachfront ceremony, a bottle of bubbly, transfers to the courthouse for paperwork, and an upgrade to the honeymoon suite; a la carte add-ons like flowers and cake are tailored to taste. Rooms from \$200; weddings from \$1,000.



\$10K TO \$20K

RENAISSANCE ST. CROIX CARAMBOLA BEACH RESORT & SPA

Tucked into jungle-cloaked hills on the island’s northwest coast, this red-roofed resort offers a host of venues, from the beach, flanked by dramatic cliffs, to Saman restaurant, featuring sky-high mahogany beams. Combine your welcome party with the resort’s Friday night Pirate Buffet, where traditional mocko jumbie performers entertain the crowd with stilt dancing and photo ops. Rooms from \$350; weddings from \$2,300.



\$20K PLUS

THE BUCCANEER BEACH HOUSE AT WHISTLE POINT

Buy out the exclusive six-room Beach House and ogle coastline views from under the covers in the master suite. I do’s take place on the pool terrace; Buccaneer hotel chefs are available to prepare an alfresco reception feast right onsite. Or shuttle down to the main hotel to celebrate inside the sugar mill, where Sean and Tierra dined à deux on *The Bachelor*. Beach-house buyout from \$11,400; hotel rooms from \$285; weddings from \$2,800.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: VILLA MANZU (2); CAROLINE POSS PHOTOGRAPHY; COURTESY OF NANDANA VILLA; KELLY GREER; RENAISSANCE ST. CROIX CARAMBOLA BEACH RESORT & SPA; KELLY GREER

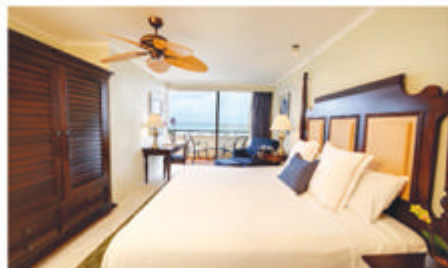


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by HOLLY V. KAPHERR

QUESTION → *How many excursions, activities or events (outside the wedding and reception) should we plan? Do we need to pay for each guest to participate?*

THE PRO Ali Phillips, the engine behind *Engaging Events by Ali*, plans weddings throughout the world, including the Caribbean and Europe.

“Typically, couples plan a welcome-party-cum-rehearsal-dinner for everyone, a day-after brunch, a farewell breakfast on the last day, and one additional excursion like a boat trip, golf game, spa day or pool party. For a recent Costa Rica wedding, we offered a sunset catamaran cruise, a karaoke night and a rainforest

tour as optional activities. If you're offering events other than the wedding and reception, only pay for what you're comfortable with and what fits in your budget. It's appropriate and considerate to let guests know about activities in advance and include info about the associated costs. For an easy head count, guests can mark their chosen outings on the RSVP card. And remember — your guests are likely making your wedding their own vacation, so allow them some time to explore the beautiful location you've chosen on their own.”

QUESTION → *We're wrangling over our wedding budget. With a destination wedding, what*

expenses should we budget for that are different from a hometown wedding?

THE PRO Based in St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands, Mary Bartolucci has planned more than 700 destination weddings since 2002.

“I always encourage my clients to make a separate budget for airline tickets, accommodations, attire and any other items unrelated to wedding events. Because there are so many variables in price points (from the economy to personal tastes), these items can vary widely and will affect the overall price of the wedding in a big way. Also, a couple hosting a destination wedding should set aside funds for guest transportation to and

from the airport and any hosted excursions. Your planner is your best bet for finding reliable service and the best prices, since she or he will have relationships with the local transportation companies. The best way to save a few pennies: Avoid shipping items to the destination altogether. International shipping charges can be prohibitive, not to mention extra insurance charges for coverage if the packages are lost, broken or held up at customs. One recent couple felt they could save money by purchasing items at home and sending them to the destination and were surprised to find the shipping cost was higher than the purchase price of the items, even though the USVI is a U.S. territory.”

QUESTION → *Our guests will be flying to our destination. What are some good ideas for travel-friendly wedding favors?*

THE PRO *Coordinating events in the United States, the Caribbean and Mexico since 2008, Sarah Pease is the mind behind Brilliant Event Planning.*

“Top considerations: size (you won’t want to give anything that will take up too much room in the suitcase), weight (or put them over their baggage weight limit) and whether it’s a liquid or not (no TSA drama, please!). A great favor idea is to include travel-size items that guests might have to leave at home because of restrictions or because they’re not easily found in travel size, like sunscreen. Other ideas from past weddings I’ve found to be both useful and thoughtful: wraps or pash-

minas for keeping warm in evening beach breezes, portable phone chargers (all that picture taking drains batteries like crazy!) and high-heel protectors if your event takes place on a lawn or a deck with slats.”

QUESTION → *We want to legally get married in our destination. How do we make sure we’ve met all the requirements?*

THE PRO *With 12 years and more than 600 weddings to her credit, Larissa Banting is the owner and lead planner of Weddings Costa Rica.*

“Some countries have more byzantine rules than others, so having a wedding expert on the ground in your locale will save time and money. For example, here in Costa Rica, the law requires couples to produce a civil-status document showing they’re free to marry, in addition to having birth certificates translated and authenticated by the Costa Rican embassy in your home country. If you were to follow the letter of the law, it would take a bit of work to get all the documents together. This is where a planner can help.

There are a number of countries where marriages performed there may not be recognized abroad. In this case, you can marry legally at home, then have a symbolic ceremony at your destination. In most cases, it won’t matter to your guests if it’s legal or not — they’ll enjoy the celebration of your families and friends coming together.”



Destination-wedding favors should be practical, like preserves to enjoy onsite (top and bottom) and welcome totes that guests can use throughout the weekend (middle). OPPOSITE: What activities should you plan for guests? This wedding group hit the high seas in Grand Cayman.



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PASS the BAR

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by JAKE EMEN artwork by IKER AYESTARÁN

➔ A study by British formal-wear company Austin Reed found that one in five men said the most important element of a good wedding was “getting everyone tipsy.” Roger that. But planning a bar at a destination is more complicated than at home — you can’t simply drive out to your favorite liquor store, load up the trunk and set up shop. Here’s how to make your reception bar memorable.

1 Incorporate local booze ➔

“Stocking your bar with local alcohol is great,” offers Derek Brown, a spirits writer and judge who owns several acclaimed bars in Washington, D.C. “It offers something distinct and something you can’t usually get.”

Some destination offerings might jump out at you, such as *ron* (rum) in Puerto Rico or wine in California. But don’t always go the most obvious direction. “Mexico is one of my favorite countries for spirits, but don’t just throw yourself into tequila,” warns Trevor Frye, beverage director of the

whiskey bar Jack Rose and mixology expert on Spike TV’s *Bar Rescue*. Instead, opt for mezcal. “It’s smoky, it’s got a lot of body, and you can treat it just like a whiskey.”

2 Embrace the trends ➔

Signature punches are popular choices that also save you cash and streamline logistics. “Instead of offering any cocktail available to mankind, just do a special punch or two,” says Brown, “something for the bride and something for the groom. That also limits the number of spirits you need.”

When you’re on a private beach with minimal service support, handle the legwork in advance. “If you don’t have a bar staff, pick a mass-appealing recipe and just batch it out,” suggests Frye — i.e., pre-make the drink and pour as needed.

But even at a hotel, the bartenders might not always be up to snuff. “They might just be servers who are put behind the bar,” laments Brown. “Having a punch is an easy way to get around that skill level and make sure you have something delicious.”

3 **Offer a preview** ➔ Plan a group excursion during your stay. “Make going to a winery, brewery or distillery part of the itinerary,” suggests Brown. Guests can get a sneak peek at what to expect behind the bar, and you’ll get bonus points for keeping everyone entertained.

4 **Have a plan** ➔ “Knowing your guests and their drinking habits is important,” says Emily Andersen, catering manager at Capella Marigot Bay Resort in Saint Lucia. “Do your guests drink more beer and wine, or liquor? Are your guests heavy drinkers?” If you’re buying the supplies, she suggests planning for at least six to seven drinks per adult. Don’t just leave the airport with crates of booze from the duty-free shop, either. Buy directly at the local establishments you’re touring (prearrange this so they’re ready) or contact a local distributor. For an open bar, expect to pay at least \$20 to \$25 hourly per person, with premium wines and spirits potentially doubling that figure.



BECAUSE YOU'RE AWESOME *Fellas, it's time to thank the men in your life. **Easy, Tiger**, founded by graphic designers/hipsters Melanie Bridges and Mike Sayre in 2013, has quirky, design-forward greeting cards, barware, art prints and more to express those words guys just don't say to each other (e.g., a trophy proclaiming its recipient the “undisputed champion of everything”). Just dole out those groomsmen gifts early so your gratitude doesn't weigh down the plane. Glassware from \$11.99. — Denali Madison*

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➔ “What’s the point in having a destination wedding if you don’t celebrate what the destination has to offer?” asks Lisa Light, founder of planning firm Destination Bride, established in 1993. Here are her tips for throwing an unforgettable event fueled by area entertainers.

SHOP LOCAL ➔ “In the Caribbean, we hire reggae and Junkanoo acts. In Argentina, tango dance teachers. We book mariachis in Mexico, merengue musicians in Latin America and hula dancers in Hawaii.”

THINK OUTSIDE THE MUSIC BOX ➔ “In Vegas, we hire magicians, contortionists and jugglers. Other options include a fire pit with s’mores, hayrides, a tattoo artist, an ice bar with a luge ... In Bali, we created a bazaar with fortune-telling and henna. For my Hudson Valley weddings in New York, we have a fun, old-fashioned circus act.”

ENLIST THE PROS ➔ “Go the extra mile to find a planner who can introduce you to a professional local agent who can book interesting acts. If possible, meet with the

agent in person during a planning trip. If that’s not doable, be sure to get music clips, video clips and references.”

TIME IT RIGHT ➔ “Generally, we hire local, cultural music for the welcome party and the wedding cocktail hour. For the reception, it’s important to play music your group will be comfortable dancing to.”

BUDGET FOR IT ➔ “If you hire local, you don’t have to pay for travel and lodging. Though it can be less, typically it costs \$150 to \$250 and up an hour per musician.”

1. Synchronized swimmers made a splash at a party in **PALM SPRINGS**, California. 2. A Colombian drummer lent local flavor to a fiesta in **CARTAGENA**. 3. Tahitian dancers enlivened a **BORA BORA** bash. 4. Performers at a circus-themed wedding in Fort Worth, **TEXAS**, included a hula-hoop artist, a still walker and a juggler on a unicycle. 5. A fire dancer from utopianfire.com.au heated up a reception in **AUSTRALIA**. 6. A bluegrass band is apropos for a Southern soiree, like this one in **ALABAMA**.

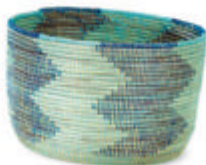
PARTY IMAGES, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: MATT MILLER/DIAMOND EYES (WEAREDIAMONDEYES.COM); BRAEDON PHOTOGRAPHY; HELENE HAVARD; GLASS JAR PHOTOGRAPHY (GLASSJARPHOTOGRAPHY.COM); VAN MIDDLETON DESTINATION WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHER (VANMIDDLETON.COM); TARA SWAIN

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1 Sourcing from every continent, **Seven Hopes United** offers fair-trade items crafted by artists in rural villages using organic, recycled or repurposed materials. **REGISTRY**

PICK This on-trend chevron basket — woven by women in rural Senegal — holds everything from a cozy throw to pet toys. \$55.



2 Helping farmers and artists in 35 countries exit poverty, the nonprofit **Serrv** has been a leading fair-trade importer of cultural crafts since 1949. **REGISTRY PICK** The work of Balinese artists, adorns ceramic shakers turn the simple act of sprinkling salt and pepper into a fashion statement. \$14.



3 **Ten Thousand Villages'** curated fair-trade finds are made by urban and rural artists in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and the Caribbean. **REGISTRY PICK** This ceramic, microwave-safe bowl by Vietnamese artists also makes for a convo-starting centerpiece. \$39.



4 With a focus on planet-saving products, **Fair Trade Winds** works with 100-plus groups of fair-trade craftspeople. **REGISTRY PICK** Hand-blown in Guatemala with recycled glass, this pitcher is perfect for 'ritas. \$39.

5 **Novica.com** connects shoppers with 45,000 artisans around the globe. **REGISTRY PICK** Machine embroidered by female artisans in India, these cushion covers splash up a sofa or armchair. \$45 per pair.

— Kristine Hansen



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inside

INSPIRATION FOR YOUR AISLE STYLE

FANCY
FINDS P36



TABLE
LABELS P40



the *look*



HAIR AND MAKEUP: NICOLE PACE

KISS & MAKEUP

Whether you're marrying on a beach, in a meadow or on a rooftop, our beauty picks will get you gorgeous.

by IVETTE MANNERS photography by CHRISTY MARKS

urban



EURO GLAM ➔ OLD-WORLD I DO'S CALL FOR MAKEUP THAT'S STARLET CHIC.



1. Gucci Audacious Color-Intense Lipstick in Iconic Red \$39, gucci.com 2. Anastasia Beverly Hills Dipbrow Pomade \$18, sephora.com 3. Shu Uemura Natural Volume False Eyelashes \$21, shu-uemura-usa.com 4. L'Oréal Paris Voluminous Miss Manga Black Angel Mascara \$8, drugstore.com 5. Dolce&Gabbana Nail Lacquer in Red \$25, saksfifthavenue.com 6. Paula's Choice Skincare Blush It On Contour Palette \$36, paulaschoice.com 7. Tarte Tartist Clay Paint Liner \$24, ulta.com

tropical



BEACH BOLD ➔ FIERY SUNSETS + AZURE WATER = A BRIGHT, PLAYFUL PALETTE.



1. Urban Decay Eyeshadow in Flash, Radium and Woodstock \$18, ulta.com 2. Urban Decay Naked Skin Weightless Complete Coverage Concealer \$28, urbandecay.com 3. Essie Nail Lacquer in Meet the Parents \$8, essie.com 4. Nars Dual-Intensity Blush in Fervor \$45, sephora.com 5. Stila Color Balm Lipstick in Gemma \$22, ulta.com 6. Flower Outstretched Lengthening Mascara \$8, walmart.com

natural



GARDEN FRESH ➔ GO AU NATUREL WITH A CLEAN, DEWY LOOK IN NO-FUSS NUDES.



1. Clinique Beyond Perfecting Foundation and Concealer \$27, clinique.com 2. Pacifica Devocean Lipstick in Tenderness \$14, pacificabeauty.com 3. Paul & Joe Beauté Illuminating Touch Pen \$26, beautyhabit.com 4. Too Faced Semi-Sweet Chocolate Bar Eye Shadow Collection with 16 eye shadows \$49, sephora.com 5. Jane Iredale Smooth Affair Facial Primer & Brightener \$48, janeiredale.com 6. Essie Nail Lacquer in Perennial Chic \$9, essie.com 7. Charlotte Tilbury Beach Stick in Ibiza \$45, nordstrom.com

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Such a Steal

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by **SABRINA JAMES**

1. FRAGRANCE Giorgio Armani Acqua di Gioia, 1 oz., \$45, sephora.com **2. GOWN** "Snowy Meadow" crocheted dress, \$107, lulus.com **3. GOWN** Donna Morgan "Laura" ruched sweetheart silk-chiffon gown, \$230, nordstrom.com **4. GOWN** DB Studio lace cap-sleeve long matte dress, \$179, davidsbridal.com **5. HEADPIECE** Rhinestone headband, \$5, forever21.com **6. LINGERIE** Lace balconette bra and lace mini knickers, \$52, topshop.com **7. EARRINGS** \$6, hm.com **8. SHOE** Jack Rogers "Georgica" jelly sandal, \$49, nordstrom.com **9. NECKLACE** Mesh and tube necklace, \$40, topshop.com

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"Opera" by Chocomatico, Ravenna, Italy. "Majestic" by Oscar & Emma, Columbus, OH.
"Modern Photo Frame" by Hooray Creative, Bartlesville, CA. "Classy Type" by Kimberly Fitzsimmons, New York, NY.
"Delicate Dots" by Ashley Hegarty, Cleveland, OH. ©2015 Minted LLC



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1. NECKLACE Venice hand-painted statement necklace, \$265, dolorispetunia.etsy.com 2. GOWN Boho lace and organza wedding dress, \$914, anyadionne.etsy.com 3. GOWN Lace and tulle "Sally" dress, \$990, graceloveslace.com.au/shop 4. GOWN "Anika" skirt and "In Perpetuity" camisole, \$660, bhldn.com 5. LINGERIE Eberjey "Joey" teddy, \$97, journelle.com 6. HEADPIECE Mara headband, \$149, boticca.com 7. FRAGRANCE Atkinsons "Rose in Wonderland" eau de parfum, 100 ml, \$225, barneys.com 8. SHOE Loeffler Randall "Alexa" sandal, \$325, neimanmarcus.com 9. EARRINGS Kendra Scott "Elise" Drusy drop earrings, \$250, nordstrom.com 10. RING Didi Jewellery rose-gold chalcedony and CZ regal crown ring, \$212, maxandchloe.com



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1. BRACELET Larvin flower bracelet, \$955, farfetch.com 2. GOWN Watters "Nyra" gown, \$3,300, watters.com 3. GOWN Kelly Faetanini "Jorgette" gown and rose-gold-plated metal belt, \$4,155, kellyfaetanini.com 4. GOWN Alvina Valenta gown, style 9501, \$4,290, jimcouture.com 5. HEADPIECE Zodiac Voilette headband veil, \$395, jenniferbehr.com 6. HANDBAG Versus Lion Plaque Saffiano leather clutch, \$575, luisaviaroma.com 7. EARRINGS Nak Armstrong rainbow moonstone and labradorite drop earrings, \$880, barneys.com 8. FRAGRANCE Roja Parfums "Mischief" parfum, 50 ml., \$480, neimanmarcus.com 9. SHOE Jimmy Choo "Chiara" wedge sandal, \$625, nordstrom.com 10. LINGERIE Bordelle spandex string body dress, \$726, luisaviaroma.com

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1. Breezy mornings ➤

There's a quiet luxury to mornings when early risers can brew coffee and curl up on a patio while the rest of the party sleeps in. Whether it's the two of you honeymooning or the whole family traveling for the big event, The Westin St. John Resort Resort and Villas offers villa-style accommodations with the ease of leisurely mornings and meals at any hour, plus all the amenities you expect from the Westin brand.

westin.com/stjohnvillas

2. WILD SIDE

St. John's topography is 60 percent U.S. National Park, and a green swath of rainforest serving as an inspiring big-day backdrop. Although brides are prohibited from arriving at their beach ceremonies via parachute, the island is a playground for adventurous couples looking to hike, explore the forest via Jeep or seek out hidden snorkel spots.

3. BEACHES FOR EVERY PERSONALITY

From off-the-beaten path to packed party spots with blenders whirring, St. Thomas offers a beach suited to every traveler. Magens Bay is the island's most famous and most popular sandy stretch, making it especially good for larger groups. But when it's just the two of you, steal away to spots like the southern coast's Limetree Beach.

4. Everybody for Scuba

At Bolongo Bay Beach Resort, all guests are given a free Discover Scuba Diving lesson with the on-site PADI Five-Star dive shop, St. Thomas Diving Club. Couples who take to the sport can continue courses with private lessons or group instruction. Plus, the dive boat — and the beach — are just yards from your room.

bolongobay.com

5. In the details

Stacy Mulcare, owner of, Ceremonies of St. John, isn't in the business of planning just destination weddings — she handles every detail of destination vacations. A wedding designer with 20 years of on-island experience, she arranges the big-day necessities and caters to every whim (she's even pulled off surprise weddings). Mulcare also handles the accommodations, day-after brunches, wedding-party excursions and so much more.

usviwedding.com





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by HOLLY V. KAPHERR

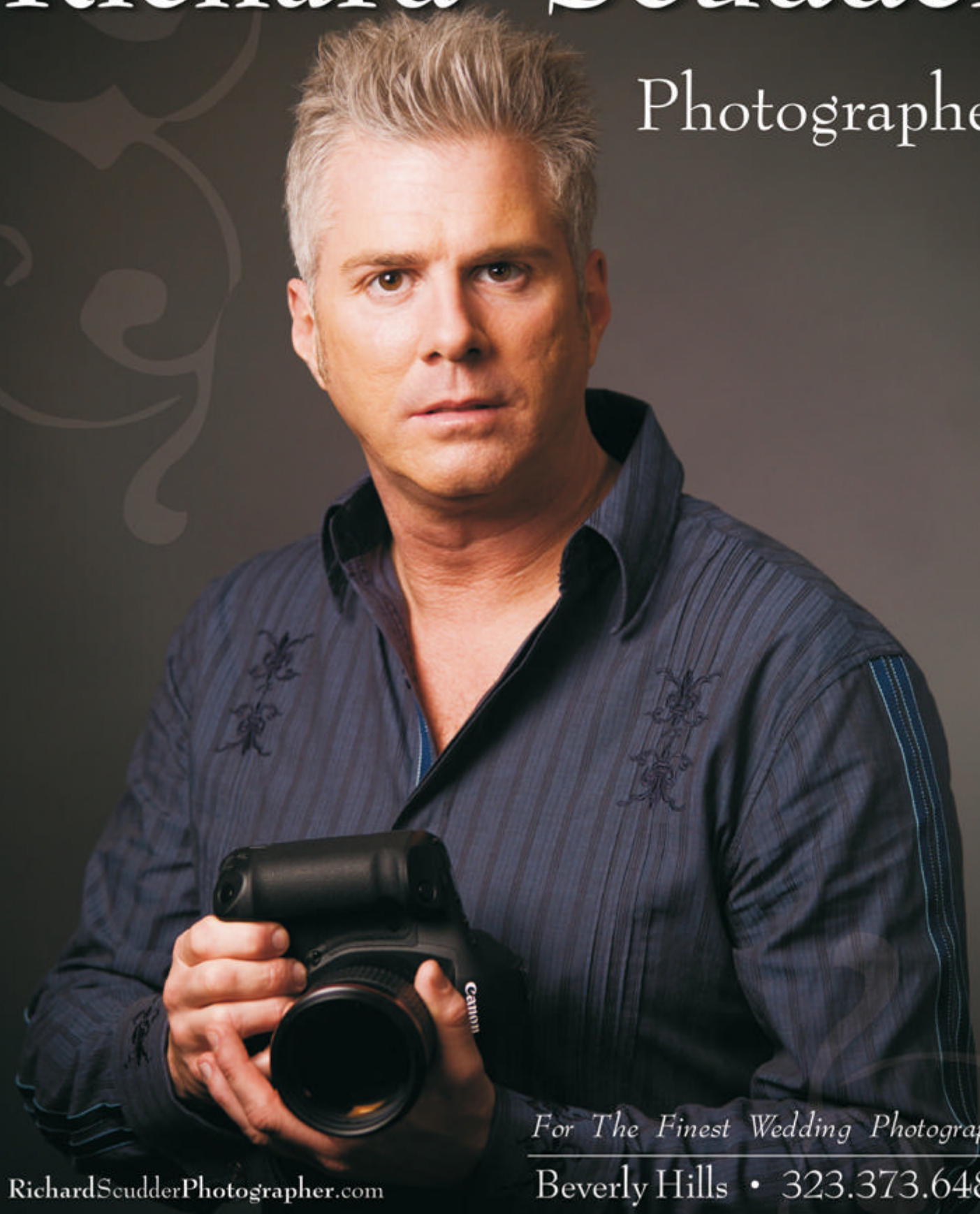


CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ASHLEY MAXWELL PHOTOGRAPHY; ARBY JUL PHOTOGRAPHY WITH DESIGN BY LAURYN PRATTES EVENTS; PAULA LUNA OF LUNAPHOTO (LUNAPHOTO.COM); ABIELE RENAE (ABIELENAEPHOTO.COM); DESIGN BY LISA BARBOT OF THE GOODNESS; PHOTO BY THE GOODNESS (THEGOODNESS.CO); ALISON CONKLIN; LIBBY CHRISTENSEN PHOTOGRAPHY; ZERO NAMES LEFT (ONAMESLEFTSY.COM)

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: 1. This couple collected vintage license plates to use as rustic table markers at their barn bash in San Luis Obispo, **CALIFORNIA**. 2. Model boats serve as both decor and table labels at any nautical celebration. 3. Table numbers that speak your locale's language, like these cards at a **MEXICO** fiesta, are cute and culture-savvy. 4. Vintage doorknobs doubled as table markers at this Florida couple's **NORTH CAROLINA** wedding. 5. Pretty pennants, labeled with the name of each island in the archipelago, adorned tables at this **HAWAII** fete — and tied in a kitschy surf theme. 6. A mossy topiary table number complements the garden setting of an event in **ITALY**. 7. A globe-trotting couple used pop-art postcards as table numbers to share their favorite cities with their family and friends. 8. Framed maps and vintage numbers are a chic travel tie-in (Set of five, \$40, etsy.com/shop/Onamesleft).

Richard Scudder

Photographer



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1



2



3



4



NORTH CAROLINA JOYS OF *Spring*

LAUREN AND WAYNE MAKE SMOKY MOUNTAIN MEMORIES IN ASHEVILLE.

photography by **BEN FINCH**

“Wayne and I met while working at Sweet Basil’s Restaurant in Greensboro, North Carolina. When he proposed on vacation in the mountain woods of Colorado, we imagined our wedding in a similar place. The Great Smoky Mountains near Asheville, a five-hour drive from our home, was the perfect destination.

We set the date for April 26, 2014, to give my northern Ohio relatives and Wayne’s Canadian clan a taste of Southern spring warmth. The owners and staff of **Sweet Basil’s** signed on as caterers, and we booked lodging through **Yonder Luxury Mountain Rentals** 10 minutes outside town. Wayne and I stayed alone at the seven-bedroom **Pine Hollow** home, where all the wedding events were held, and guests stayed in two other houses onsite.

On Friday, lasagna was the main course at a rehearsal dinner inside Pine Hollow, and the next day, 100 guests gathered on the lower lawn to hear Wayne and me exchange vows we wrote ourselves. **Eric Everett**, a local musician we found online, played guitar at the ceremony and served as DJ throughout the night.

Our buffet-style reception dinner included shrimp and grits, bourbon-glazed-chicken skewers and a steak-carving station. We danced until 11 p.m. when, at the request of neighbors, we turned off the music and quietly gathered around a beautiful bonfire. It was an unexpected, meaningful and serene close to an exciting day.” — *Lauren Lewis, as told to Susana Youngsteadt*



1. ATTIRE The bride, in a Watters dress, and the groom, dressed in Jos. A. Bank, stole a kiss. **2.**

GESTURE The couple donned aprons and served tapas to their guests. **3. DETAILS**

A croquet set and antique parlor sofa created a homey ambience. **4. FAVORS** The couple

gave succulents with stamped cards from Etsy shop Succulents Galore. **5. MENU** The first course

included duck-confit flatbread and prosciutto-wrapped shrimp. **6. REMEMBRANCE**

The couple released balloons to honor the memory of deceased family members. **7. DESSERT**

Debi Hall of Just Simply Delicious prepared cupcakes, pies and a small cutting cake. **8.**

CENTERPIECES The bride decorated with old books from home. **9. DINNER**

Guests dined at 16-foot tables on the lower lawn.



FLORIDA

FUN IN THE Sun

BRIANNA AND JORDAN ESCAPE CHILLY ATLANTA FOR A WEEKEND CELEBRATION IN KEY WEST.

photography by **HEIDI GELDHAUSER**
WITH OUR LABOR OF LOVE PHOTOGRAPHY

“Jordan and I got engaged while out antiquing, which is one of our favorite weekend activities. After searching for venues at home in Atlanta, we went down to the Florida Keys to check out **Casa Marina, a Waldorf Astoria Resort** on Key West. I had stayed there a few years earlier and had always thought about getting married there someday. We knew it was the perfect spot for our friends and family to get away and celebrate with us.

My parents welcomed our 118 guests the Thursday before the wedding during a cocktail party at their Key West home. The intimate rehearsal dinner was on Friday afternoon at the **Oldest House & Garden Museum**, followed by a sunset sail with everyone.

Our ceremony, on March 15, 2014, took place on the beach at Casa Marina. I wanted to use colors found near the ocean but keep the decor minimal so it wouldn't distract from the view.

Our planners, **We've Got the Keys**, helped us execute our vision perfectly. We embraced Key West maritime tradition by having our best friend Mikey blow a conch shell during the recessional to announce the beginning of our marriage. After cocktails on the terrace, we moved to the Flagler Ballroom, which had been decorated to play up the resort's 1920s vibe. Jordan and I sneaked outside to eat dinner together under the full moon.

The dance floor stayed packed all night, thanks to live music from **Gypsy Lane**. We even had to chase out a pair of wedding crashers!” — *Brianna Londrillo Strain, as told to Amy Cassell*



1. CANOPY Milan Event Floral & Decor designed the boho-inspired driftwood arch for the ceremony. **2. DRESSES** The bride chose a Lazaro gown; bridesmaids wore J.Crew. **3. DETAILS** Sand Isle created the sand sculpture to mimic Key West's iconic southernmost point buoy. **4. FAVORS** The week of the wedding, Brianna encountered a cigar roller at a local bar and hired him to make guest gifts. **5. HORS D'OEUVRES** Bites included crab cakes, conch fritters and burger sliders. **6. STATIONERY** The bride's brother, Benjamin Londrillo, designed the invitations and programs. **7. CAKE** Key West Cakes provided dessert. **8. DECOR** Shells and dune-grass-filled vases lined the aisle. **9. ATTIRE** The groom and groomsmen looked island casual in J.Crew.





CALIFORNIA

NATURAL *Beauty*

STEPHANIE AND ELI GO WILD FOR CALIFORNIA'S SANTA YNEZ VALLEY.

photography by **CALLAWAY GABLE**

“My dream wedding would have been in a forest, but since we wanted to host our Aug. 9, 2014, event within a few hours’ drive of our Venice, California, home, that wasn’t an option. We visited nearly 20 venues around the Santa Barbara area, but none of them felt right.

The last place we saw was **Refugio Ranch** in Santa Ynez, and we fell in love. It’s a vineyard surrounded by rolling hills and filled with tall golden grass and ancient oak trees. It was by far the most un-manicured property we’d seen, which is exactly what we wanted.

I have a huge family and we have lots of friends, so we had a large guest list — 220 people. Most of our guests rented homes or stayed in hotels in the nearby towns of Los Olivos and Solvang. There are wineries all over, so friends and family did lots of wine tasting, as well as hiking and horseback riding.

Our planner, **Beth Helmstetter**, did an amazing job putting together our wedding weekend. Friday night we held the rehearsal dinner at the **Santa Ynez Museum**, then Saturday was the big day.

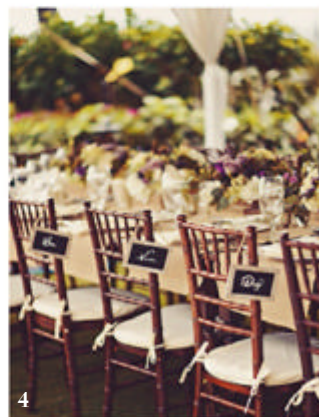
The ceremony took place on a hill overlooking rows of grapevines. Then we moved to a grassy reception area where the only lighting was the full moon and market lights strung from the trees.

Food was really important to us, and **New West Catering** didn’t disappoint. We had a raw bar for cocktail hour and grilled sirloin and chicken for dinner. It turned out to be the best day of our lives.”
— *Stephanie Holzman, as told to Allyson Reedy*



1. LOCALE Refugio Ranch provided the “raw, natural setting” the couple craved.
2. ATTIRE Stephanie wore a gown by Inbal Dror, while bridesmaids donned dresses from Joanna August’s Ceremony line.
3. DETAILS Succulents by Hollyflora lined the aisle.
4. RECEPTION Flowers, fruit and leafy green garlands decorated wooden picnic tables.
5. FLOWER GIRL A floral wreath by Flower Girl Los Angeles adorned this pint-size princess.
6. MUSIC Klezmer-style band Petrojvic Blasting Co. entertained guests with their fun dance tunes.
7. DESSERT Los Angeles-based Doan’s Bakery made an assortment of layer cakes.
8. CEREMONY A rustic aisle of colorful rugs led to the sun-dappled wedding site under a giant oak.







HAWAII ISLAND *Time* CULTURE AND PASSION IGNITE FOR GEORGIANS ROBIN AND DAVID ON MAUI.

photography by **TAMIZ PHOTOGRAPHY**

“The sparks were instantaneous when friends introduced me to ‘a hilarious redhead I absolutely had to meet.’ David works in real estate and I teach high school English in Atlanta. After dating for two years, he proposed, and we knew our wedding had to be in Maui, where my parents own a vacation home in the **Kapalua Resort** on the northwest shore of Maui.

The community offers beautiful wedding venues, but we preferred a small ceremony in my parents’ backyard, catered by **The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua**. We chose planner **Hawaii Weddings by Tori Rogers**; she had become a family friend while planning my twin sister’s big day.

Most of our 40 guests stayed at The Ritz and the Bay Condos on the resort grounds, where zip lines, hiking trails, beaches and golf kept them happily occupied. Out-of-towners attended a rehearsal dinner at **Lahaina Grill**.

Just before sunset on the big day, all our guests gathered for a poolside ceremony combining our Jewish traditions with Hawaiian wedding customs. During cocktail hour, passed hors d’oeuvres included kalua-pork empanadas and *opakapaka* (snapper) ceviche sesame cones. Guests then enjoyed a poolside sit-down dinner of grass-fed filet as **Omar and Rare Vibrations** entertained. Sparks flew again in the magic-hour light at the end of a day we’ll never forget in this beautiful end-of-the-earth place.” — *Robin Rakusin, as told to SY*



- 1. LOCALE** “We didn’t want a typical beach wedding,” says Robin. “We love the rustic, rural beauty of Maui’s Kapalua Resort.” **2. FIRST DANCE** The couple, her in Christos and him in J.Crew, twirled through the ceremony chuppah.
- 3. DESSERT** Maui Sweet Cakes created the *lilikoi* (passion fruit) cake. **4. SEATING** Maui Rentals provided dinner tables and chairs.
- 5. BOUQUET** Sunya’s Flowers mixed roses with Hawaiian greenery. **6. FAVORS** Guests took home homemade lavender-oil mist. **7. MUSIC** Slack-key guitarist George Kahumoku Jr. played during the ceremony. **8. DETAILS** The bride’s mother bought parasols online to shield guests from the sun. **9. CEREMONY** The couple said I do on a custom-built platform atop the hot tub of the bride’s parents’ pool.

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ADVENTURE

HOW DO YOU PICTURE YOUR BIG DAY?

by **MAYA VANDENBERG**



I FANCY LOTS OF FOOD

AMERICANS SPENT \$12 BILLION ON CULINARY ACTIVITIES WHILE TRAVELING IN THE PAST YEAR, ACCORDING TO 2014 RESEARCH BY RESONANCE CONSULTANCY. SOUND LIKE YOU? HOLD YOUR WEDDING AT ONE OF THESE FOODIE RETREATS.

BOUTIQUE ALL-INCLUSIVES **Sandals Royal Plantation**

OCHO RIOS, JAMAICA

This 1950s-era resort exudes loads of old-world charm (e.g., Georgian architecture and stunning fountains perfect for photo ops) and boasts exhilarating views of the Caribbean from its perch on a 25-foot bluff. Exchange vows in the gazebo pier; for parties of up to 60, keep the festivities going with a pier-side dinner. Just 74 butler-serviced, ocean-view suites dot the 10-acre property, and five restaurants offer everything from French to gastropub fare. You can also get fancy at the Caribbean's only champagne and caviar bar or take afternoon tea on the terrace.

Of course, no Jamaican meal is complete without rum punch, courtesy of the island's own Appleton Estate, which partnered with the resort. *Rates from \$335 per person; basic wedding free with a three-night stay.*

Vomo Island Resort

MAMANUCA ISLANDS, FIJI

With just 32 villas set on a 255-acre private island in the South Pacific, Vomo is about as exclusive as it gets. Fresh from a reno, the hotel reopened in March 2015 and debuted a new show kitchen at The Rocks Bar, which highlights grilled eats and a raw bar with plucked-from-the-Pacific seafood. For those with picky palates, think of resort menus as more of a guideline than

“
WITH ALL-INCLUSIVE PRICING, YOU CAN ESTABLISH, AND STICK TO, A BUDGET EARLY ON. YOU COULD ALSO DISCOVER PRICE BREAKS, PLUS ADDED PERKS AND AMENITIES, FOR HOSTING YOUR GUESTS ALL AT ONE PROPERTY.

”
— RICHARD CALVERT, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF CELEBRATION TRAVEL GROUP

a rule. The *à la carte* dishes, made with ingredients from the onsite organic garden, change daily but can be tweaked according to any dietary (or other) requirements. Good news for your reception; after you're escorted down an aisle of pure white sand by a traditional Fijian warrior and married to the tune of an island choir, you can look forward to a celebratory meal suited to your particular tastes. *Rates from \$1,000 per room; weddings from \$2,250.*

BIG ALL-INCLUSIVES **Azul Sensori Mexico by Karisma**

RIVIERA MAYA, MEXICO

While the Karisma resort brand's gourmet-inclusive offering has been praised by culinary tastemakers, its Azul Sensori Mexico property — with 435 suites and six dining venues — is a standout. Head immediately to adults-only Le Chique restaurant to savor a six-course modernist-Mexican menu (don't be surprised if your food has been flash-frozen with liquid nitrogen) paired with wine. And if you've jumped on the craft-cocktail bandwagon, hit up the Mojito Lounge, extending 18 specialty takes on the popular concoction. Wed on the hotel's private sky rooftop terrace with 360-degree



views of the Yucatan Peninsula's sandy shores, then dine with your nearest and dearest at international Spoon restaurant. Bonus: Each suite flaunts an alfresco hot tub for two. *Rates from \$285 per person; basic wedding free with a seven-night stay, plus 15 additional room nights.*

Grand Velas Riviera Nayarit

NUEVO VALLARTA, MEXICO

Of the five restaurants (and not a typical buffet in sight) at this 267-suite property, three are fine-dining powerhouses that have been racking up accolades. There's Piaf, serving classic French fare accompanied by a live trumpeter; Lucca, an Italian-Mediterranean venue with decadent combos like leg of lamb with eggplant caviar; and Frida, whose new menu features Mexican cuisine based on dishes that artist Frida Kahlo prepared for her lover. (Don't miss the seasonal margaritas, courtesy of the resident mixologist who roams the dining floor with a top-shelf-tequila trolley.) Say I do in the tropical garden or beachfront gazebo; for the reception, work with the international chefs to customize a locally inspired menu. *Rates from \$305 per person; basic wedding free when booking 25 or more suites for a two-night minimum.*



CLOCKWISE FROM OPPOSITE LEFT: A photo op at Sandals Royal Plantation. A pretty ombre ruffle cake. Joyful newlyweds at Grand Velas Riviera Nayarit. Sandals Royal Plantation's wedding gazebo on the dock. Gourmet cuisine at Vomo Island Resort. A tropical cocktail turned work of art. Vomo's beachfront bar. Sweets and suds please palates.



“ IF YOU PLAN ON SHIPPING ITEMS TO YOUR ALL-INCLUSIVE RESORT, CONNECT WITH THE STAFF TO ENSURE YOU FOLLOW THE APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS, AS WELL AS UNDERSTAND THE ADDITIONAL FEES INVOLVED. THEY WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO GUIDE YOU AS TO CUSTOMS RESTRICTIONS, IF ANY. ”

— CALVERT





1 PICTURE A FUN

Fiesta

MORE THAN A THIRD OF *DWH* READERS LISTED “ADULT-ONLY” AS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN SELECTING A WEDDING RESORT. IF YOU’RE LOOKING TO PARTY HARDY, OPT FOR ONE OF THESE HOTELS THAT ARE PRIMED FOR GROWN-UP REVELRY.



BOUTIQUE ALL-INCLUSIVES

Bolongo Bay Beach Resort

ST. THOMAS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

When a resort is touted as the “Caribbean’s most entertaining,” we’re sometimes skeptical, but in the case of this 74-room property, they can tout away. Flip-flops are always welcome — or bare feet, especially if you tie the knot aboard the hotel’s 53-foot catamaran. Drop by Iggies Beach Bar to groove to nightly live entertainment (from Carnival to karaoke), with Voodoo Juice — concocted with five types of local Cruzan Rum — in hand. Or join the weekly snorkel booze hunt to search for hidden bottles in the bay. Best part: finders, keepers. *Rates from \$550 per room; weddings from \$1,000.*

Occidental Grand Papagayo Resort

COSTA RICA

Surrounded by the untamed beauty of Costa Rica’s northern Pacific coast, this 169-room resort recently turned adults-only. Plus, the newly introduced pool drink concierge means you can sip to your heart’s content without ever having to leave your lounge. When (if) you do, three on-property bars, including a disco, serve unlimited premium beverages. For smaller weddings of 10 to 20, go with the resort’s Simple Love package, in which you’ll walk down a rose-petal aisle to wed beneath a wooden canopy draped with white linen. *Rates from \$119 per person; weddings from \$1,499.*

BIG ALL-INCLUSIVES

Grand Palladium Jamaica Resort

MONTEGO BAY, JAMAICA

Guests of this 540-suite resort

have access to the amenities of its sister property, Grand Palladium Lady Hamilton, meaning double the venues for double the fun. With 13 bars, plus the Boogie Woogie discotheque, you could stay here for two weeks and still have a different place to party every night. Belly up to the colonial-style Miss Lou Bar for all the top-shelf liquor you can handle. Catch live music nightly (including a steel-drum band on Fridays) at the Infinity Saloon Bar. Or try your hand at the casino

“CHECK THE RESORT’S OUTSIDE-VENDOR POLICY. DON’T BE SURPRISED IF IT COSTS YOU UPWARD OF \$500 TO BRING IN AN OUTSIDE PHOTOGRAPHER OR OTHER VENDOR.”

— TARA SOLO-WAY, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF LUXE DESTINATION WEDDINGS

if you’re feeling lucky — luckier than you already are for getting married, that is. Speaking of, choose from six exclusively designed Karen Bussen Simple Stunning wedding packages to dress up the ceremony site of your choice (beachside pergola, garden gazebo or alfresco atrium). Then throw a private beach bash beneath the stars. *Rates from \$355 per room; weddings from \$1,050.*

Breathless Punta Cana

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The first and only Breathless Resort, this adults-only,

750-room behemoth is heavy on the entertainment. Options for fun include an indoor theater hosting live shows, nightly outdoor big-screen movies and beach parties, theme nights at the pool and beach, and dance classes. You’ll be treated to endless premium libations at nine bars and lounges, too — from the seaside Foam lounge to Lush, a spa bar (because who doesn’t want a Mamajuana cocktail while being pampered?). Get hitched on the resort’s bleached sands under a fabric-wrapped canopy, and keep the party going beachside with a lighted dance floor, a Caribbean music trio and fire dancers. *Rates from \$121 per person; basic wedding free with a seven-night stay.*



FROM TOP: It’s party time at these fun-focused all-inclusives. Custom koozies make for fitting favors at Grand Palladium Jamaica Resort. A blinged-out soiree space at Breathless Punta Cana. Confetti and event lighting boost this bash. OPPOSITE: Guests of Grand Palladium Jamaica Resort can also play at Grand Palladium Lady Hamilton, shown.



“A DESTINATION ALL-INCLUSIVE WEDDING ISN’T JUST A ONE-DAY AFFAIR; IT’S A CELEBRATION THAT LASTS SEVERAL DAYS, FILLED WITH UNLIMITED ACTIVITIES SET IN BREATHTAKING SURROUNDINGS.”

— MARSHA-ANN BROWN, DIRECTOR OF ROMANCE FOR SANDALS RESORTS





I IMAGINE ALL MY FAMILY

OF THE FAMILIES THAT WENT ON A MULTIGENERATIONAL VACAY IN THE PAST YEAR, 77 PERCENT PLANNED IT AROUND A MILESTONE EVENT (READ: WEDDING), RESONANCE CONSULTANCY FOUND. READ ON IF YOU'RE INVITING THE WHOLE CLAN.

BOUTIQUE ALL-INCLUSIVES

The Verandah Resort & Spa, Antigua

ST. PHILLIP'S, ANTIGUA

Five gazebos — from hilltop to pier — scattered around this 180-suite resort provide an array of ceremony choices. Follow with an all-out bash on Rasta Beach. The resort also has a Kidz Club with an adventure playground and a kiddie splash pool, where little ones aged 2 to 12 can run in circles. Children 8 and up can sail, kayak and paddle boat, while beach games, arts and crafts, and guided nature walks are on the docket as well. Lastly, two restaurants and two beach grills with kids menus and a buffet option mean everyone's happy at mealtime. *Rates from \$396 per room; basic wedding free with*

a seven-night stay in a Waterfront Suite category or higher.

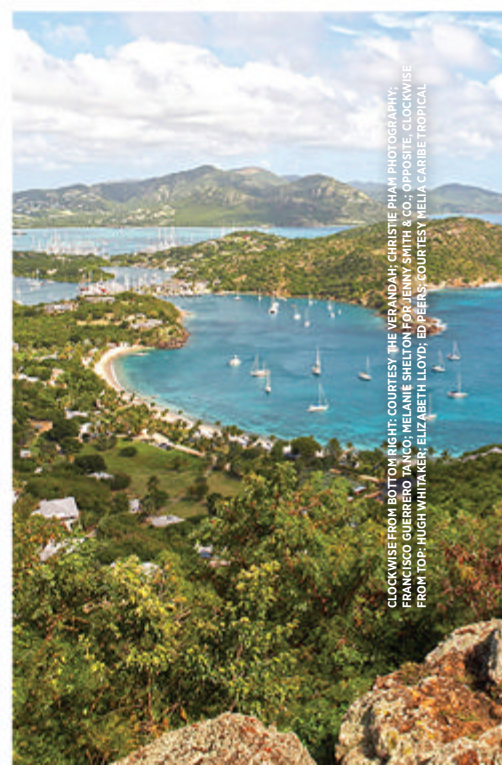
Travaasa Hana

MAUI, HAWAII

This rebranded property (formerly Hotel Hana-Maui) sits cliff-side in the famed village of Hana. Of the 70 cottages and suites, the aptly named Waikoloa Family Suites sleep up to six and have full kitchens. Kid-friendly programming spans from lei-making, hula and ukulele lessons to snorkeling and throw-net fishing. An elopement package is available, and any larger parties require a full buyout. However, that means you'll have free rein to celebrate anywhere you'd like, including Hamoa Beach, the Plantation Guest House or the Kauiki restaurant lanai. *Rates from \$350 per room; elopements from \$5,000; buyouts custom.*

“ALL-INCLUSIVES OFTEN REQUIRE THAT THE MAJORITY OF YOUR WEDDING GUESTS STAY AT THE HOTEL. IF YOU'RE HAVING A LARGE WEDDING, CONTROLLING WHERE EVERYONE STAYS COULD BE CHALLENGING, SO IT'S GOOD TO KNOW THE POLICY FROM THE START.

”
— BARBARA FANCSIK DE PÉREZ, OWNER OF WEDDINGS VALLARTA
BY BARBARA



CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM RIGHT: COURTESY THE VERANDAH; CHRISTIE PHAM PHOTOGRAPHY; FRANCISCO GUERRERO; JARCO; HELENE SHELLON FOR JENNY SMITH & CO.; OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: NICHOL WHITMAN; ELIZABETH LLOYD; EDWARDS; COURTESY MELIA CARIBBEAN TROPICAL



BIG ALL-INCLUSIVES

Beaches Turks & Caicos Resort Villages & Spa

PROVIDENCIALES, TCI

Like a city unto itself, this 75-acre complex comprises four distinct areas (like the sophisticated French Village) and 758 rooms edged by 12 miles of powdery sand (the top spot for I do's). If lots of kids will be in attendance for your big day, this is a prime pick. But with a pirate-themed water park and a surf simulator — plus a DJ academy, Xbox Play Lounge and new sailing program for aspiring skippers — you might never see them again. Except obviously at your wedding, for which you can choose from six themes, like the pink-infused Flutter of Romance. Or go completely custom with the Your Wedding, Your Style online planning tool. *Rates from \$344 per person; basic wedding free with a three-night stay.*

Melia Caribe Tropical

BAVARO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

This Bavaro Beach mega-resort has a whopping 1,138 rooms, so you can invite just about everyone you know to your wedding. And if those guests have *niños*, they're in luck: The property offers a Kids & Co. club (organized by age from 8 months to 14 years), with activities like zip lining, a climbing wall, a super jumper, crafts workshops, pirate discos and beach camp-outs. If you're having a larger event, the resort's ballroom can accommodate up to 680; for a smaller affair, host your reception in one of five specialty restaurants. Of course, that's after you've swapped vows in the ocean-view gazebo, which is cloaked in fluttering sheer white fabric. *Rates from \$222 per person; weddings from \$1,200.*



CLOCKWISE FROM OPPOSITE LEFT: There's something for even the youngest guest at these family-friendly escapes. At Melia Caribe Tropical, tots love the kids club, while adults favor the Gabi Club, shown. A relaxed bride at the Verandah Resort, Antigua. Melia Caribe Tropical's wedding gazebo. Bring boys of all ages for fun in the sun and sand. Opt for the Verandah Resort for happy kiddos and harbor views like this. Bridesmaids and blooms brighten a Hawaii bash.



“THE BEAUTY OF AN ALL-INCLUSIVE IS THAT ONCE YOU'VE PREPAID FOR YOUR HOLIDAY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO SPEND ANY MORE MONEY WHILE THERE. THIS MEANS NO UNCOMFORTABLE MOMENTS ABOUT SPLITTING THE BILL. IT REALLY TAKES THE PRESSURE OFF SPENDING SO YOU CAN FOCUS ON HAVING FUN.”

— SOLOWAY





YOUR ULTIMATE CROSS-COUNTRY ADVENTURE STARTS HERE.

Once the I do's are exchanged, shift your marriage into gear with a once-in-a-lifetime road odyssey. And don't think for a minute you'll be roughing it. Our three-, five- and seven-day itineraries are filled with drool-worthy local cuisine, cozy B&Bs and, of course, spectacular views for perfect honeymoon photo ops. Newlyweds, start your engines.

BY DENA ROCHE

THE ROMANTIC'S GUIDE TO

honeymoon

ROAD TRIPS

ARIEL RENAE (ARIELRENAEPHOTO.COM);
OPPOSITE: CHRISTIAN GARCIA DESTINATION WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHER (CHRISTIANGARCIA.COM)





DAYS 1-2

SWOON CITY

Go full-on *Ocean's Eleven* as soon as you arrive in Vegas and check in to **Bellagio**. At sunset, head to the 550-foot **High Roller**, the world's largest observation wheel, for views of the Strip and Red Rock Canyon. Enjoy an exciting dinner at **Picasso**, a two-star Michelin eatery in Bellagio with exotic dishes like pigeon, fallow deer and Tai snapper on the prix fixe menu. Sip "secret" verbena cocktails at the Cosmopolitan's **Chandelier** bar — the edible flower is said to be packed with enough energy to power a night of dancing at **Hyde** nightclub. In the morning, drive 30 minutes

to Lake Mead and Hoover Dam, gawking at the enormous **Mike O'Callaghan-Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge** spanning the Colorado River and connecting Arizona with Nevada (two states, one stop!). Take time to walk across and snap some sky-high pics. Below, the dam's Visitor Center elevator will plunge you 530 feet in 70 seconds through the rock walls of Black Canyon for the tour. If the awe-inspiring engineering of the dam isn't enough, fly over Lake Mead on **Flightlinez Bootleg Canyon's** zip-line ride. Head back to the Strip before the late-night showing of Cirque du Soleil's **La Rêve**, voted best production show in Vegas for four years running.

Get your Pat Pack on by strutting down Fremont Street and playing blackjack till the sun comes up.



ST. AUGUSTINE ➔ MARCO ISLAND

Start in America's First City, where the **Bunnery Bakery & Cafe** fills the air with the aroma of pastries and fresh bread. For a dose of history, visit the 17th-century **Castillo de San Marcos National Monument**; don't miss re-enactors in ornate Spanish military uniform as they fire a cannon and antique muskets. Take a free tour of **St. Augustine Distillery**, a small-batch vodka and gin producer housed in a circa-1907 ice plant, and refresh with Moscow Mules and grass-fed burgers at **The Ice Plant Bar**. Rest your heads at the art-filled **Casa Monica Hotel**. In the a.m., motor two hours south to Orlando, where you can take a free yoga class at **Lake Eola**, catch a Broadway musical at the spanking-new **Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts** and dine on Florida oysters and farm-to-fork fare at **The Rusty Spoon**. Rest up at **EO Inn**, with views of Lake Eola's fountain lights. Rise in the morning for the journey to **Everglades National Park**, where you can race through the mangroves and track gators with **Captain Jack's Airboat Tours**. Unpack the car and savor sparkling wine and sunset views on the wide beach of **Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort**, just outside Naples. You've earned it.

— Sarah Sekula

Note from the road: Rent a red convertible, and wear sunscreen!



Roulette today,
rafting tomorrow.

Lake Mead
NEVADA

DAY 3

FEEDING FRENZY

On your last day in Vegas, tuck into brunch at chef Michael Mina's new resto, **Bardot**; the indulgent menu features a parfait layered with escargots and foie gras. Stumble out of your food coma and into the calm of **Mandarin Oriental's** spa, where the private, two-hour Double Happiness Ritual goes down in a candlelit couples suite. End your romp at **L'Atelier de Joel Robuchon**. The man at the helm is heralded as France's Chef of the Century, and Zagat named the restaurant the best in town. Succumb to the deadly sin of gluttony with grilled langoustines with green curry or yellowtail ravioli with sea urchin.



PREVIOUS SPREAD, FROM LEFT: Taking a breather together. Hit the road, starting in the Nevada desert. THIS SPREAD, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: A secluded moment in the sandstone wilds outside Vegas. Rafting at Roaring Fork. Desert cacti. Catching air over Lake Mead. L'Atelier dining room at MGM Grand. Taking in the scenery. Testing the water in Florida. Neon lights up Fremont Street. A classic kiss at the Las Vegas welcome sign. The High Roller Ferris wheel on the Strip.

ARIEL RENAE (ARIELRENAEPHOTO.COM); CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM RIGHT: HARING PHOTOGRAPHY; ARIEL RENAE (ARIELRENAEPHOTO.COM); MGM RESORTS' INT'L; COURTESY PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF AT FLIGHT LINEZ BOOTLEG CANYON; ARIEL RENAE (ARIELRENAEPHOTO.COM); BRETT FRIEL; OPPOSITE: FROM TOP: YACOV DAGAN/ALAMY; MICHELLE SARRIS/IAN (MICHELLESARRISIAN.COM); SHUTTERSTOCK



5 DAYS THROUGH

Hawaii

KILAUEA ➔ KONA

Flaunting eight climate zones and 4,028 square miles, Hawaii, the Big Island begs to be explored by car. First, check in to **Kilauea Lodge**, a mile from **Hawaii Volcanoes National Park**, to rest your muscles for tomorrow's adventure: exploring the nearby lava-rock terrain with **Volcano Bike Tours**. The next day, fuel up on *malasadas* (sugary pudding pastries) at **Tex Drive-In** in Honokaa. Head to the northwest to ride ATVs through eucalyptus forests with **Ride the Rim**, and take a dip in the headwaters of **Hiilawe Falls**. Come afternoon, make your way to the Kohala Coast on the northwest tip of the island, and settle into an oceanfront condo at **Mauna Lani Point**. After catching some morning rays on the sand, lunch at **Sweet Potato Kitchen**, a vegan-friendly, gluten-free cafe that dishes up everything — including chocolate-chip banana bread — from scratch. Then stroll around Hawi town's art galleries, boutiques and restaurants. The next day, sign up for the **Kona Boys** kayak and snorkel excursion for an up-close view of a thriving reef home to fish, turtles and manta rays. — SS

Note from the road: Routes get congested around Christmastime, the Ironman triathlon in October and the Merrie Monarch Festival in April.

Strolling a cottonwood tree path at Horseshoe Bend. CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: Mesa Arch at Arches National Park. Twisting trees mimic the red-rock towers at Bryce Canyon National Park. Hiking the North Window at Arches in Moab. Striking a pose at Zion National Park. Riding horses through the sagebrush in southern Utah. A private whirlpool at Amangiri Resort in Kanab, Utah. A photo op at the national park's welcome sign. Rock striations show the hands of time at Zion National Park. Scuba diving in Hawaii.

DAYS 4-5

NATIONAL TREASURES

If Vegas is glitz, glamour and adrenaline, Utah is beauty, wonder and serenity. From Las Vegas, drive north to **Zion National Park** and hike Angels Landing, a challenging trail that rewards with views of the park's Navajo sandstone rock formations. Continue on to Kanab, Utah, to overnight at the luxe **Amangiri** resort. You've seen the sweeping sands of the *Star Wars* planet Tatooine; Amangiri looks as though it was plopped down in the middle of the set. The isolated surroundings make it one of the top places to stargaze.

Springdale UTAH

Surreal landscapes
and towering rocks =
so many photos.



➔ The Route Head north on U.S. 89 to I-70 E



You think there's no way this can be real. And then, it is.



Moab

UTAH



DAYS 6-7

RED ROCK RIDE

More scenic vistas await on the five-hour drive to Moab, including Monument Valley, where parts of *Forrest Gump* were filmed, and Goosenecks State Park, featuring twisting red rocks. Time your trip to arrive at Arches National Park at sunset to traverse the Delicate Arch hike. The three-mile trek on slick rock passes Ute tribe petroglyphs carved into the sandstone on the way to the world's most-photographed natural arch. Dine on the terrace at **Red Cliffs Cowboy Grill** along the Colorado River with a glass of vino from the lodge's winery. Overnight in a cabin at the **Sorrel River Ranch**; come morning, snuggle under a blanket on the porch swing to watch the sunrise.



KASSIA PHOT (KASSIAPHOTO.COM); CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: THORPELAND PHOTOGRAPHY/GETTY IMAGES; MICHELLE SARKISSIAN (MICHELLESARKISSIAN.COM); VISITUTAH.COM; KASSIA PHOT (KASSIAPHOTO.COM); OPPOSITE, CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: COLIN ANDERSON/BLEND IMAGES/ALAMY; MICHELLE SARKISSIAN (MICHELLESARKISSIAN.COM); (2); AMAN (3)



Breckenridge

COLORADO

DAYS 8-9

VIEWS & BREWS

Take the road less traveled — scenic highway 128 to I-70 — on your way to the Mile High City by way of **Grand Junction**. Drive the winding route up to the top of **Grand Mesa**, the world's largest flat-top mountain, and taste the honey-sweet dessert wines at **Whitewater Hill Vineyards**. **Arapaho National Forest**, with its groves of pines, is prime for a photo stop. In Denver, check into the the 110-room **Hotel Teatro**, named one of the top hotels in the world by Expedia. Colorado is ranked No. 1 in total beer production, so be sure to hit craft breweries like **Crooked Stave Taproom**, **Great Divide** and **Wynkoop**.



Have extra time? Make a side trip to Aspen to gaze at the changing colors of the famous Maroon Bells.



With all the snowcapped peaks, it's easy to feel lightheaded with newlywed bliss.



PARIS ➔ MARSEILLE

Route 7 is France's version of Route 66. All 600 miles are packed with stunning vistas of rolling vineyards and countryside castles, from the City of Light to the Mediterranean. It officially begins in the heart of Paris at **Notre Dame** cathedral. Check in to the **Generator Paris**, a luxe hostel that opened in February 2015, and scarf a scoop of **Berthillion's** renowned ice cream.

Rise early for the 200-mile first leg to the city of Moulins, filled with timber-frame houses, sidewalk cafes and a 15th-century cathedral. **Hotel de Paris & Spa**, in the town center, makes a great resting spot. A hundred miles farther down Route 7, stop in Tain-l'Hermitage to get your chocolate on at the circa-1922 **Valrhona Boutique**. Your next pit stop, **La Mule Blanche** in Périgord, is all about seafood. Gastronomes will swoon over the sweet B&B **Maison Pic** and the French haute cuisine at **Pic Le 7**, run by Michelin-starred chef Anne-Sophie Pic. Stop in Avignon for a photo op with the **Pont du Gard**, the famous first-century Roman aqueduct.

Then make your way to your final destination of Marseille to slip through secret passageways and slurp bouillabaisse, a hearty saffron-hued seafood stew. — SS

Note from the road: The roads and signage are a bit tricky, so keep a close eye on your GPS.



Walking forest paths. CLOCKWISE FROM OPPOSITE MAIN: Air awe-inspiring view of Colorado's mountain grandeur. Slurp down bivalves at **Stoic & Genuine's** raw bar. Hotel Teatro's historic facade. A cozy kiss in the mountains. Romance reigns in Paris. Independence Pass in Colorado. Burgers and fries are must-eat road food. Off-roading in a Jeep over mountain terrain. Wildlife spotting is virtually guaranteed. A couple celebrates their arrival in the Rockies. Haroon Bells in Aspen.



Denver

COLORADO

DAY 10

MILE-HIGH 'MOON

On the last day of your road trip, visit the **Denver Art Museum**, with architecture inspired by the geology of the Rockies. Chow down the Damn Near Half a Maine Lobster roll at **Stoic & Genuine**, the new seafood restaurant from James Beard award-winning chef Jennifer Jasinski, located at the newly renovated **Beaux-Arts Union Station**, appropriately housed in a former train station. You're exiting the honeymoon highway at official newlywed status, but the true adventure is just beginning.

There's nothing like spending 10 days in a car with your honey to solidify your bond.



W&A PHOTOGRAPHY; CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: TYLER BRANCH; JESSICA CHRISTIE PHOTOGRAPHY; SHUTTERSTOCK (2); COURTESY ALAX JESSICA; THE COGNATE PHOTOGRAPHY FOR STOIC & GENUINE; COURTESY HOTEL TEATRO; OPPOSITE: JESSICA CHRISTIE PHOTOGRAPHY; JESSICA CHRISTIE PHOTOGRAPHY; TYLER BRANCH; JOE KENNEDY PHOTOGRAPHY.COM; JESSICA CHRISTIE PHOTOGRAPHY

SPECIAL PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

the *Sunshine* state

LET SUNNY FLORIDA BE THE BACKDROP
FOR YOUR DESTINATION WEDDING –
SIMPLE, CHIC OR SOPHISTICATED.



South Walton

THINK OF FLORIDA AS A STAGE – a stage bathed in glorious sunshine. On that stage, weddings can have any palette, props and script: garden, wooded, artsy, luxe, city, suburban or even theme park. Secular or religious. Intimate or grand. Indoors or alfresco. From the capital in Tallahassee to the Keys at its southern tip, Florida differs greatly in terms of scenery, polish and even culture.



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FLORIDA

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SEASCAPE

SANDESTIN

DUNE ALLEN

GULF PLACE

SANTA ROSA BEACH

BLUE MOUNTAIN

GRAYTON BEACH

WATERCOLOR

SEASIDE

SEAGROVE

WATERSOUND

SEACREST

ALYS BEACH

ROSEMARY BEACH

INLET BEACH

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Couples fly, drive and cruise into Florida for weddings from all over the country, drawn by the state's broad blue sky and bright sunshine. As for venues, planners, florists, bakers, entertainers, officiants and photographers, brides and grooms easily match their likes to the providers eager to step up from coast to coast. Here are some highlights.

SOUTHERN COMFORT

For Miami chic in an easy-to-reach locale, choose **Sunny Isles Beach** for your wedding and honeymoon. Near two airports yet distinctly away from the crowds, this coastal hot spot runs along 2.5 miles of Atlantic coastline.

The wedding locations wow as much as the sunsets. The destination is home to over-the-top indulgent world-class hotels, yet also splendidly stylish ones; both types are eager to host your ceremony and reception. Also in Sunny Isles, unusual venues cater to weddings, such as one party space designed to look like a monastery and another filled with highly themed rooms — James Bond, antique European cars and more. sunnyislesbeachmiami.com

Marry in Old Florida fashion by pastel-hued buildings where Ernest Hemingway himself might have walked. Or at sunset on a quiet beach. Or in a raucous public gathering spot surrounded by fun-lovers. Or off the coast aboard a luxury yacht. In the **Florida Keys & Key West**, weddings have one rule and one rule only: No rules apply.

This diverse destination at the southern tip of the United States is renowned for its be-and-let-be attitude. That applies to weddings, from traditional church ceremonies and elegant ballroom receptions to rainbow ring exchanges with nontraditional celebrations. Couples can even end on a sweet note with wedding cakes that look like sushi.

From serene fishing spots to activity-filled resorts to quaint historical inns, the Florida Keys are, in essence, what you want them to be — with sun. Lots of sun. fla-keys.com/weddings

Hawks Cay Resort brings the best of the Florida Keys to one spot: Stunning sunrises and sunsets, spa treatments, fine dining, interacting with dolphins, paddle boarding, fishing, tennis, diving and way more will entertain wedding couples and their guests.

Yet the wedding itself will take center stage. Hawks Cay has six outdoor wedding venues and four indoors. All the venues were just updated. So kick off your married life in a colonial-style gazebo with ocean views, or



Photo courtesy of The Monroe County Tourist Development Council

Florida Keys & Key West



Sunny Isles Beach



Hawks Cay Resort

in a 6,000-square-foot ballroom with Atlantic vistas, or surrounded by bottlenose dolphins, or on the sand at the Beach Grill, or in terraces overlooking the beach, or around one of two landscaped pools, or aboard a 65-foot catamaran. Your choices are that extensive — and inviting.

The wide portfolio of options continues beyond the ceremony and reception. Invite the whole gang because the choices are tremendous. Break the ice with a private sunset cruise featuring dinner and wine or have a sand volleyball tournament. Gather the gals for a spa day or the guys for a deep-sea fishing expedition. Throw a Keys-style street party. Take a snorkel trip to a private island.

Then wish your friends and family adieu so you can privately experience Hawks Cay Resort's beauty and activities. You might want to lodge in one of two brand-new penthouses with private outdoor space and expansive views. hawkscay.com

NORTHERN EXPOSURE

If you are travelers seeking an authentic Florida experience, rather than tourists wanting bells and whistles, choose Santa Rosa County for your wedding and honeymoon. This quaint, historic and charming corner of northwest Florida, known as **Florida's Playground**, is home to Navarre Beach — 8 miles of pristine Gulf-front shoreline with little development along its coast. Its new Navarre Beach Pier juts out 1,500 feet over the calm, clear blue water and is a popular spot for fishing and sunset viewing.

Weddings here can be on the beach, in a quaint white church or at the naval air station's Whiting Field. Celebrate at a barbecue restaurant, within a golf club or in a hotel ballroom.

For sure, your honeymoon options will range from antiquing in historic Milton to kayaking the Blackwater River, dining in quaint bistros to hiking miles upon miles of scenic trails — or just relaxing on the pristine white sandy beaches of the Florida Gulf Coast. floridasplayground.com

FAIRY TALE DREAMS DO COME TRUE IN PARADISE.

When it comes to romantic, picture perfect weddings, nothing compares to Naples and Marco Island in Florida's Paradise Coast. Pamper yourself at luxury hotels and beach, spa and golf resorts. Dine at award-winning restaurants. Tour the Ten Thousand Islands and Everglades National Park. And when you're ready to say, "I do," choose from secluded white sand beaches overlooking a breathtaking Gulf sunset to lush, tropical gardens to fairy tale ballrooms. Come turn your wedding dreams into reality.



NAPLES
MARCO ISLAND
EVERGLADES

—  —
FLORIDA'S PARADISE COAST

PARADISECOAST.COM

Pristine beaches, verdant gardens, state parks ... couples choose **South Walton** for their wedding because the outdoor venues are iconic, diverse and beautiful. The scenic spots are a major draw in this beautiful northwest Florida area, where the weather tends to be wonderfully warm. Yet more wedding options beckon: a dinner cruise, an event space with an exhibition kitchen, an antebellum-style home, a historic mansion, the grounds of intimate inns, the Choctawhatchee Bay and several polished hotels. In all, South Walton has 26 miles of sugary-white beach and 16 acclaimed neighborhoods — with just the right wedding locale for every couple.

South Walton's website is easy to use, letting couples view details of only the types of venues they prefer and specifically the ones available on their chosen date. The "Ask An Expert" online feature makes it easy to get wedding and honeymoon assistance from staffers. The website also shares details of real South Walton weddings. visitsouthwalton.com/weddings

One locale. Just one pretty, sophisticated, service-savvy locale. *That's* how to have a beautiful yet stress-free wedding. **The Gasparilla Inn & Club** is just that venue. The historic resort is at once a 142-room hotel with golf, tennis,



Santa Rosa County



The Gasparilla Inn & Club



Sirata Beach Resort

croquet, a marina, a spa and a beach club, as well as a clever, detail-oriented caterer.

The gracious Gulf-front grounds offer ceremony and reception sites for groups from 30 to 300. You might exchange rings under a graceful banyan tree, or in one of

two gazebos, on the beach, in a lounge-like room or on a sprawling lawn. When it's time to dine and dance, you'll choose from tastefully decorated event rooms to the pool deck, a dining room, the golf-course area and the croquet lawns. Menu options are diverse.

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Loews Don CeSar Hotel

Whatever your choice, a wedding coordinator will be by your side from the planning through the farewell breakfast. the-gasparilla-inn.com/weddings

WESTERN WARES

St. Pete Beach blends a laid-back vibe with a dose of sophistication worthy of its nearby art museums. **Sirata Beach Resort** bridges that same relaxed-yet-smart continuum, offering weddings that are at once welcoming and remarkable.

With the aid of an onsite event planner, your ceremony and reception can have dramatic decor elements as well as impressive entertainment, menus and extras like ice carvings. Beachfront weddings consistently have a wow factor, but couples can also exchange rings and celebrate in any of the decks, pavilion and ballrooms.

The catering team offers a variety of menu types and options. Once you choose your wedding fare, consider hosting the rehearsal dinner and farewell brunch at Sirata, too.

Each event can be in a different locale.

Your guests will enjoy the resort amenities, from beach volleyball to beach bonfires to cabana rentals and water sports. sirata.com

Once a 1920s playground for the rich and famous, today **Loews Don CeSar Hotel** is a beachfront hotel ideal for weddings. Known as the Pink Palace, this historic property hosts weddings of up to 250 guests with the utmost intimacy.

The stately Loews Don CeSar is located right on St. Pete Beach, and most of its indoor and outdoor ceremony and reception locales overlook the Gulf of Mexico, including elegant party spaces with floor-to-ceiling windows. Among the eight venues are the Beach Pavilion, the Grand Ballroom, and the sugar-sand beach itself. An in-house décor company will set up an idyllic look for your big day, and onsite planners will help with the details.

From bridal manicure parties to his-and-hers massages, the hotel's 11,000-square-foot Spa Oceana will keep you relaxed and ready for the cameras. Special deals are available for wedding parties. loewshotels.com/don-cesar/meetings/weddings

WHERE DREAMS COME TRUE



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The Naples Beach Hotel
& Golf Club
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Florida's **Paradise Coast** melds two worlds into one. The genteel city of Naples and its polished neighbor Marco Island are upscale beach areas, yet they're surrounded by nature. In fact, parks and preserves comprise 80 percent of the destination. For couples, the Paradise Coast offers wedding options from budget to luxe, with plenty of romantic honeymoon activities.

Marry right on the public beach in Naples at Eighth Avenue South simply by reserving your spot online and paying a token fee. Or hire a boat to take you and a few guests to Keewaydin Island. Chances are you'll have a strip of the 8-mile beach entirely to yourselves. Celebrate on the spot with hors d'oeuvres and bubbly.

High-end hotels will pamper you with extraordinary bells-and-whistles weddings. Water buffs might prefer a ceremony aboard the air-conditioned *Naples Princess* or *Marco Island Princess* yachts



Naples, Marco Island & The Everglades



The Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club

or *Sweet Liberty* or *Cool Beans* catamarans. And if flowers, plants and trees bring you happiness, exchange rings in the scenic Naples Botanical Garden, the historic garden area of the Naples Zoo, the Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary or the Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park.

For your honeymoon, choose from an indulgent full-service resort or a personable small and independently run lodging facility. Then take sunset sails, motorboat to a private beach and join a paddle excursion into the Everglades. Chef-driven restaurants, from simple to sophisticated, will beckon for dinner. Or catch a romantic flick at the luxury cinema Silverspot before ending the evening with a cocktail at Mercato with a variety of bars and restaurants. paradisecoast.com

Graceful and historic yet invitingly modern, **The Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club** is ideal for beach weddings – even if that ceremony



NOT YOUR TYPICAL DESTINATION WEDDING

One of Florida's most unique wedding destinations, **The Gasparilla Inn & Club** offers couples spectacular, relaxed celebrations on pristine Gasparilla Island.

For more than a century our National Historic Landmark resort has played host to destination nuptials and milestone celebrations. The Inn continues to evoke "Florida as it was meant to be" and offers multiple customized venues and luxurious amenities including championship golf, spa, a beach club, full-service marina and award-winning cuisine.



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isn't quite *on* the beach. You can exchange rings under a canopy right on the sand as the waves of the Gulf provide a natural soundtrack. But keep those stylish pumps on. Many couples choose to marry beside the sand on the manicured Ocean Lawn. For air-conditioned comfort, consider too the indoor Everglades Room, overlooking the gentle waves of the Gulf. Couples get the view without the hassle.

Hassle will be far from your minds here. The nearly 60-year-old property's dedicated events team will help you choose not only the best ceremony locale but venues, menus, decor items and more for the celebration. Add on a welcoming rehearsal dinner, a hip after-party and an emotional farewell brunch. Each will be distinct.

Salon services are available, and guests will enjoy the Naples Beach Hotel's tennis and golf facilities, plus its pools and water sports. naplesbeachhotel.com

Spin the compass any way at all in Florida and you'll land at a pretty corner of the sun-bathed state. Wedding providers are always nearby. Log onto VISITFLORIDA.com/weddings to learn more. ♦



florida's riviera

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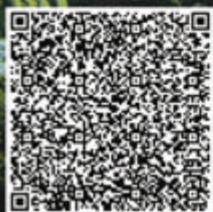


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the *ever after*



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by HOLLY V. KAPHERR

the *ever* after

9 a.m. ROYAL TREATMENT

After a night spent tangled in the plush comforters of **The New York Palace** hotel, greet the day with an in-room couples massage. Schedule coffee and macarons from Pomme Palais, the French *patisserie* downstairs, to arrive just after your treatment.

10 a.m. SCHMEAR CAMPAIGN

One of New York's original Jewish delis, **Zabar's** on Broadway is the place to pick up bagels, cream cheeses and lox before meandering to **Central Park** to join the locals for a romantic stroll or — if you're feeling ambitious — roller- or ice-skating, depending on the month you 'moon.

11 a.m. PADDLE PARTNERS

The **Loeb Boathouse Central Park** has been renting out rowboats from April until November since 1954. Paddle across the glassy water, or reserve a private, guided gondola tour around the lake and surrounding canals.

12:30 p.m. HAVE WHAT SHE HAD

The NQR train will take you directly from Central Park's southeast corner to SoHo, where a mile-high hot pastrami sandwich at **Katz's Delicatessen** is well worth the price tag. Sit at the table where Meg Ryan staged the famous scene from *When Harry Met Sally*.

3 P.M. TAKE THE HIGH ROAD

Hop in a cab bound for *Chelsea* to walk the **High Line**, a grass-roots project that transformed abandoned railroad tracks from the 1930s into a lush urban oasis. Down for dessert? Share a scoop of frozen bliss from the **L'Arte del Gelato** stand.



FROM TOP: The New York Palace hotel courtyard looks out onto St. Patrick's Cathedral. Central Park is an oasis in the concrete jungle. Sip red-currant martinis and Old Fashioneds. Rent a rowboat from the Loeb Boathouse and cruise the lake. Katz's Delicatessen's hot pastrami will change your life. Stroll the stalls at Chelsea Market.



6 p.m. ON THE WATERFRONT

The Hudson River flanks Manhattan's west side, and **Bateaux New York's** three-hour dinner cruise is the way to view must-sees like the USS *Intrepid* battleship and the Statue of Liberty. After dinner, sway to live music or steal a kiss on the deck as you pass under the Brooklyn Bridge.

10 P.M. RISQUE BUSINESS

*New York's Lower East Side has always been a bastion for artists and entertainers, and the Vaudeville-style burlesque and variety shows at **The Slipper Room** run the gamut from tame to tantalizing. Buy advance tickets for the best seats — and to avoid a lengthy wait.*



12 a.m. HIGH SPIRITS

Drink in city lights from the rooftop of **Pod 39 Hotel**, a favorite watering hole for Manhattanites. With views off the 17th-floor deck, it's the way Midtown should be seen, lit by only the glow of market lights. Order the Fly By Night (so apropos!), a concoction of Spring 44 gin, lemon juice, cinnamon, vanilla, orange blossom and sea salt, and toast to a lifetime of adventures together.

2 a.m. HEAT OF THE NIGHT

Surely you're not heading to bed in the city that never sleeps? After drinks, grab a late-night snack of super spicy and crispy Korean-style fried chicken at **Bon Chon Chicken** on 2nd Avenue, and don't pass up the kimchi coleslaw for an extra hit of heat.

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Now that you're rocking the ring, it's time to assemble your personal team of wedding pros.

First things first: Hire a planner. No matter how organized or detailed you are, a wedding planner will pay for herself - from the money she'll save you by knowing the best vendors to the stress she'll alleviate from day one. Destination planners know the terrain, speak the language and can navigate your locale's culture.

Choosing the right photographer is also key: Once your big day is over, your photos will be the most valued keepsakes to remind you of your experience in paradise.

Here are vendors seasoned in planning from afar - find the right one so you can get hitched without a hitch.

VENDOR TIPS

“All inclusive properties are a great way to go! If budget is a concern you can literally chop your costs in half, and even much less if you choose an all-inclusive property.”

-AVIVA SAMUELS, KISS THE PLANNER

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-JOSEFINA FARHAT,
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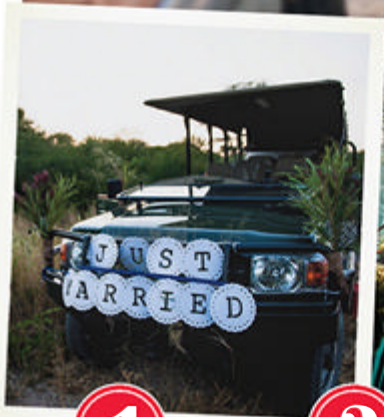
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by BAZ DREISINGER



1
WILD

2
WILD

3
WILD

1
MILD

2
MILD

3
MILD

GREATER KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

Get up close and personal with rhinos and zebras (above, top left and bottom left) at the four posh safari lodges of Sabi Sabi Private Game Reserve (below). Up-close encounters are expected. Spy wildebeests and giraffes on a **walking safari**; come nightfall, dine in a private **boma** (rustic enclosure) with only the bush beside and stars above.



DURBAN

Face your fear on a boat ride with the KwaZulu-Natal Shark Board, an institute dedicated to the study of the toothy creatures. Intrepid honeymooners can **dive with great whites** with Shark Cage Diving KZN (above, bottom center).

JOHANNESBURG

Bar-hop in trendy Braamfontein, a central neighborhood in downtown Joburg, chockablock with giant wall murals and hipster hangouts. Catch a show at the National School of the Arts, then hit the town. The area is home to many musicians, so it's prime for people watching, sipping artisanal cocktails and **dancing the night away** to soul, jazz and house music at funky haunts like Kitchener's and The Orbit.

JOHANNESBURG

Stay at the 117-room Four Seasons Hotel The Westcliff, just opened winter 2014. Gazing down eight acres of manicured hillside and over the Johannesburg Zoo, you'll forget you're in a city of more than 700,000. **Dine on locally sourced cuisine** like grilled ostrich paired with South African chardonnay at Flames restaurant (or at one of the four other dining spots), then banish post-flight fatigue at the lavish spa.

FRANSCHHOEK

Tour the art-filled De-laure Graff wine estate and spa (above, top center and bottom right) in Stellenbosch, where restaurant ingredients are sourced from local farmers and the onsite greenhouse. Overnight in the Pinotage Suite at the 22-room Mont Rochelle Hotel & Vineyard (below), Sir Richard Branson's newest retreat. In the a.m., book the four-hour **horseback wine-tasting tour** with Paradise Stables.



CAPE TOWN

The "mother city" flaunts selfie-stick-worthy beaches (above, top right) and the trendy suburb of Camps Bay, framed by crystal waters and dramatic Table Mountain. **Stroll Koel Bay market** to score some curios from African artisans.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: CULTURA PH/ALAMY; DELAIRE GRAFF; SHUTTERSTOCK; DELAIRE GRAFF; COURTESY MONT ROCHELLE; SABI SABI; DAVID CARAVIAS/ALAMY; HANNES UYS PHOTOGRAPHY SOUTH AFRICA

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MALDIVES

W RETREAT & SPA

At this private-island resort, there are two options to take a dip: the Indian Ocean or the in-room pool. Opt for an overwater bungalow and flick a switch to illuminate the sea at night. From \$1,570. — Brooke Morton



PICK YOUR PERU

THERE'S SOMETHING *POR TODOS* IN SOUTH AMERICA'S FIFTH MOST-POPULOUS COUNTRY.

For history buffs ➤ Cross the ancient city of **Machu Picchu** — the majestic 14th-century ruins of an Inca community atop an Andean mountain — off your bucket list. Getting there is half the fun, whether you ride in style aboard the **Inca Rail** train from Cuzco or brave the advanced, four-day hike along the Inca Trail. After, learn to shake a perfect pisco sour at the **Sumaq Machu Picchu Hotel**. From \$548.

For adrenaline junkies ➤ Hemmed by jagged Andean peaks and crisscrossed by rushing rivers, Peru's Sacred Valley lures adventurers with its horseback riding, four-wheeling,

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: JAMES MOES; MARY COSTA PHOTOGRAPHY; W MALDIVES; SANDALS LOVE NEST; SPICE ISLAND BEACH RESORT

Trend Alert



Drink Up, Darling

Satisfy your thirst for romance while wandering these beer, wine and cocktail trails together.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: KYLE HALE PHOTOGRAPHY; JAMES MOES; INKATERRA; HENK NEIJER/ALAMY; SHUTTERSTOCK (4)

white-water rafting, rappelling and cycling. Recover at the art-filled **Relais & Chateau Sol & Luna Lodge**, where a soak in your casita's outdoor tub and a Reiki treatment at the mosaic-walled spa will have you ready to hang glide with the hotel's owner in no time flat. *From \$240.*

For surf seekers ➤ If you've conquered the waves at Waikiki and Sayulita, it's time for a visit to Mancora, a sweet surf spot located just a few hours from the Ecuadoran border and known for year-round swells and a funky vibe. Rest your board

at **KiChic**, a seven-villa hotel where honeymoon packages include a couples yoga lesson and a beachside massage. *From \$200.*

For fearless foodies ➤ Peru's diversity of native foods is legendary (hello, more than 4,000 varieties of potato!), and adventurous chefs in Lima are turning tradition on its head, utilizing meats like alpaca and piranha and native fruits like lucuma. Chef Virgilio Martinez's spot, **Central**, boasts a 17-course tasting menu that guides diners through a **gastronomic tour of the country.**

For animal aficionados ➤

Deep within the Amazon basin, Peru's **Tambopata National Reserve** creeps, crawls, swims and flies with wildlife of every ilk. Giant anteaters wander the riverbanks, monkeys swing from the trees, and jaguars lurk in the dense forest. Take it all in with a dose of low-impact luxury at **Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica**. *Two nights from \$1,172, all-inclusive. — Katie McElveen*

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Overlooking the historic city of Cuzco. An alpaca grazes in Cuzco's meadows. A once-in-a-lifetime kiss in Machu Picchu's winding ruins. Glowing jungle villas at Inkaterra Reserva Amazonica. The majesty of Machu Picchu. BELOW LEFT: Smooching at the pub.



CIDER IN THE HUDSON VALLEY

The rolling hills of upstate New York are so gorg they're chick-flick idyllic (there's a reason *Dirty Dancing* was set here) — and indie cider presses and distilleries abound. Sip at mills like **Fly Creek Cider Mill & Orchard**, where you can pick up local cheese and fudge to pair with your booze.

STAY Couples have been snuggling at **Beekman Arms & Delamater Inn** in Rhinebeck since 1766. *From \$185.*



CURAÇAO IN CURAÇAO

The Dutch Caribbean isle is the namesake of the azure liqueur that colors your blue Long Islands (once you see the hue of the surrounding water, you'll get it).

Tour the **Landhuis Chobolobo** distillery and taste the real thing — it's not all blue. Or dive into 50 different varieties of rum at the **Motown Soul Bar**.

STAY It's all Euro luxury at **Avila Hotel**, a four-star property with a private beach. *From \$272.*



BEER IN THE NETHERLANDS

If *The Fault in Our Stars* made you misty, take a Netherlands jaunt. Tour on two wheels during **Beercycling's** four-day Dutch Tulips trips, full of brewery stops, pairings and beer-themed dinners, plus freewheeling through flower fields.

STAY Spend a few days in Amsterdam at the **Hotel De L'Europe**, a 19th-century *grande dame* home to a restaurant with two Michelin stars. *From \$441.*



PORT IN PORTUGAL

The ruby-red fortified wine has hailed from the city of Porto for more than 400 years. Taste the range, from crisp to nutty to raisin-rich, on tours through the 50-some port warehouses along the Douro River. At **Taylor Fladgate**, soak in the sunshine on the stone terrace overlooking the city after sampling three ports.

STAY The **Yeatman** boasts a private balcony off each room. *From \$200. — Jessica Bryce Young*

THE SPOT, THE SHOT

WHERE TAVARUA, FIJI WHEN OCT. 14, 9 A.M.



HANG TEN

Two Hawaiian surfers trash the dress in the waves off a heart-shaped Fijian atoll.

"Mike and Leila grew up on Kauai and learned to swim before they could even walk. They were in Fiji celebrating their engagement when we met them while out surfing. Two days later, we were free-diving under the surf, capturing images off **Tavarua Island Resort** in the world-famous Cloudbreak — you can see from the dramatic wave where the name stems from. They were blown away by the magical quality of the photos, how they depict their adventures together, and how the ocean has been such an important part of their relationship."

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